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Champion
2 March 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 9 www.champnews.com

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Complaints about off-road bikers on the increase

Use of off road bikes is a growing problem in Skelmersdale

SKELMERSDALE Police have reported an increase in complaints of off-road bikes being used in an anti-social way in the town.

They have said that they can be dangerous if they are misused.

As reported in the Champion an off-road bike was seized on Whalleys Road on Monday, February 15 after it was ridden in an anti-social way through the estate on that date. The rider was dealt with for road traffic offences, including driving without insurance.

Sergeant Craig Appleton from Lancashire Police said: "We have had an increase in reports, regarding off-road motorbikes in the Skelmersdale area.

"These bikes cause a nuisance and can be very dangerous when misused.

"It is also a tenancy breach to store these bikes and/or fuel in council property.

"If you have any information regarding these bikes being stored please call 101 and ask for the information to be passed to your local Skelmersdale Neighbourhood officer.

"We have had a number of seizures of off-road bikes in the past and on those occasions we have highlighted the problem to petrol station staff and warned them about selling fuel to young people who may be using it for anti-social offences."

NEW APPEAL IN ROW OVER TOWN CENTRE SCHEME

Report by **Henry James**

THE owners of the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale have launched an appeal after the High Court found against them in a legal challenge over a rival town-centre scheme.

Skelmersdale Limited Partnership, a joint venture between London & Cambridge Properties (LCP) and Threadneedle Investment, has applied to the Court of Appeal to seek to overturn the High Court's judicial review finding in January.

LCP, which is planning a multi-million pound leisure scheme with restaurants and a cinema at the Concourse along with a comprehensive refurbishment, started legal proceedings after West Lancs Council granted approval to the St Modwen scheme which, they believed threatened the vitality and viability of the popular shopping centre.

An application has now been lodged with the Court of Appeal and a decision is expected at the end of 2016.

Jo Salmon, LCP retail portfolio manager, said: "We have been given no choice but to fight this competing scheme because it would be a severe blow to the Concourse, affecting the businesses and jobs there, if it was allowed to go ahead.

Jo Salmon, LCP retail portfolio manager

"We are frustrated and disappointed that the council and some elected members do not appreciate the consequences of this competing scheme when there are examples of what has happened with similar replacement developments in the region.

"The council is supporting a scheme that promotes 20% of the Concourse's retailers relocating into a few new big boxes.

"If that goes ahead, we won't survive , so we need to deliver our scheme, which will ensure the centre's future. We hope that our customers, staff and businesses recognise how the rival scheme, in its existing guise, will be detrimental for Skelmersdale and that they will lobby their elected members.

"What is clear is that the rival scheme is hindering progress at Concourse due to the uncertainty it is creating in the market. This is making our job very much more difficult, but nevertheless, we are determined to go ahead and are pressing ahead with our development and are looking to start work on site this summer.

"We very much hope that the council will start to work with us and support us in our endeavours to further invest and deliver a scheme that will be beneficial to Skelmersdale and by working with its

Continued inside

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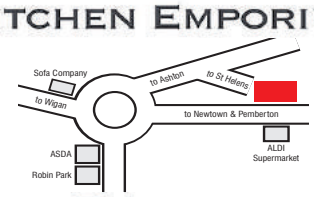

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Council unveil plans to improve housing stock

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council has announced plans to spend more than £12.6million on improving its housing for council tenants during the next year.

Members approved the schemes at their council meeting last Wednesday (February 24) when they met to agree the authority's housing revenue account budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

The council's housing account is made up from money raised through rents and service charges to provide services for council tenants and leaseholders.

Decisions made by the government mean that the rents for most tenants will reduce by 1% each year for the next four years. Those in supported accommodation will see a small increase of 0.9% as these households still have the requirement to move towards target rents.

The impact of these decisions will mean that £1.4m will need to be saved in 2016/17 and a further £10m between 2017 and 2020.

The council has agreed a budget that, it says, protects services and will see the investment of £12.6m next year.

This includes the completion of the Firbeck Revival project; the start of the Beechtrees Revival project; 550 new kitchens installed; 900 new bathrooms installed; £1.6m invested in improved heating; replacement doors and windows installed; investment in communal areas of flats; and improvements to sheltered housing.

This is the latest programme of works for council housing and continues the wide range of improvement schemes that have been carried out in recent years.

A full review of the budget is underway and tenants will be consulted during the summer on proposals to tighten the belt and find ways to reduce expenditure or raise funds over the next three years.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, the council's portfolio holder for housing, said: "The council is facing some challenges in terms of housing funding over the next three years and I am therefore delighted we are able to announce these exciting schemes which will benefit tenants for many years to come.

"I am confident that we will continue to provide first-class services now and in the future."

For more information visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/housing.

'Real' treat in store for ale lovers

BEER drinkers are in for a treat at the Court Leet pub in Ormskirk when it hosts a real ale festival from Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 27.

As well as a wide selection of British beers the Wheatsheaf Walk venue will be serving up brews from around the world including Italy, the Netherlands, Australia, the USA and the Republic of Ireland.

More than 30 ales will be available including a chocolate beer, wheat beer, cask lager, fruit porter, rye beer and spiced beer, as well as a beer brewed with peated malt.

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'Extraordinary concert' **Daily Record and Sunday Mail**

Beechtrees revival scheme back on council agenda

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have announced plans to relaunch their £3m scheme to revive Beechtrees which was put on hold at the end of last year.

Their plans for the estate were included in their housing and revenue account budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

The original proposals included fully refurbishing the six detached blocks inside and out, demolishing three blocks of flats and the adjoining homes, and partially refurbishing two more blocks.

The council had originally announced plans for a £5.4m scheme for Beechtrees, but this was reduced to £3m.

Mark Taylor, the borough treasurer at the borough council, said: "We are planning on starting the programme in the next financial year, but the dates are still to be confirmed.

"A lot of the work that takes place is based on the discussions that we have with the communities involved. Discussions include talks on what work is going to be done. The work is then able to be carried out once the consultation has been finished."

Leader of the council, Councillor Ian Moran, added: "Some people will have to be moved and relocated, so there is still some work to be done around that.

"The work was initially planned for this financial year, but because of the government we weren't sure where we were."

Mr Taylor added: "We are looking at spending £600,000 on the project in the next financial year."

Paul Roughley with a copy of the original Beechtrees Revival document

West Lancashire Borough Council's chief executive, Kim Webber, commented: "If you look what we have done at Firbeck you can see what can happen if you put a concentrated amount of money in a small area - it has totally transformed it. That is what we plan to do for Beechtrees as well."

Beechtrees resident, Paul Roughley, had been critical of the council for their handling of the scheme and he told the Champion last December after the initiative was put on hold: "The budget for the Beechtrees revival has now gone from £5.4m, to £3m, and now it is £0m.

"Even if we just got the doors, windows, heating, and kitchens this would be some kind of improvement to our standard of living and bring the flats a bit closer to the 21st century."

School choir aiming to hit the high notes in prestigious contest

The Little Digmoor Primary School choir.

TALENTED choristers from a local primary school will be aiming to hit the high notes when they line up in the heats of a prestigious competition.

The youngsters from Little Digmoor Primary in Abbeystead, Skelmersdale will be competing against 14 of the best school choirs in Lancashire in the Last Choir Singing contest.

Teams of songsters aged from six to 11 will take part on two evenings of competition at the Marine Hall in Fleetwood on Thursday and Friday, March 10 and 11 with the Little Digmoor choir appearing on the latter .

The best choirs, as chosen by the judges, will then go through to Grand Final of the contest to be held at King George's Hall, Blackburn on Friday, June 17.

Anita Shaw, project manager for Last Choir Singing, said: "Last Choir Singing is a fantastic showcase for the UK's rich choral tradition and it allows school choirs of all abilities to flaunt their talent.

"It has tremendous musical variety and I'm looking forward to hearing everything from opera to rock arrangements, alongside traditional and popular repertoire. I can't wait to see what's on show from the schools performing at the Marine Hall!"

George Critchley, chairman of the lead creator, supporter and organiser of the competition, True Bearing Chartered Financial Planners, said: "True Bearing set-up the competition with the aim to get as many schools involved and enjoying the fun and camaraderie of singing in a choir. The competition is a fantastic way for us to connect with talented choirs across Lancashire and we can't wait to hear what is on offer from those in the heats on March 10and 11."

League's tribute to tragic heart victim Zac

THE Skelmersdale Junior Football League league has paid tribute to 11-year-old Zac Taylor who died suddenly.

Zac, who played in goal for Rainford Rangers and Skelmersdale United Juniors, suffered from a heart condition and died on Thursday, February 11.

A tribute on the Skelmersdale Junior Football League website said: "We, on behalf of all the Skelmersdale Junior Football League players, managers, parents, would like to offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to the Taylor family on the sudden passing away of Zac.

"Zac was a happy, friendly 11-year-old who had his whole life in front of him. He loved life and always had a beaming smile on his face. Anyone who met him couldn't help, but love him.

"He loved his football too and was an amazing goalkeeper, he had played for Skem United JFC first team with his friends and got his nickname 'Zac the cat'. He moved on to play for the Rainford Rangers Amigos which he loved.

"Zac will be truly missed by everyone who knew him."

Skelmersdale United held a minute's respect for Zac prior to the game against Rushall Olympic on Tuesday, February 16.

Concourse owners set to launch new appeal over town centre scheme

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development partner to deliver something that will complement the town centre, rather than simply replace it."

LCP is planning a major leisure scheme, which will comprise a 20,000 sq ft multi-screen cinema, along with food outlets, and refurbishment of malls and external areas.

The shopping centre, which houses more than 70 shops including well-known high street names, would also undergo improvements.

Planning permission was granted by West Lancashire Borough Council in December 2014.

Concourse bosses say it will ensure the future vitality and viability of the shopping centre, creating at least 40 new jobs, as well as protecting the 800-plus jobs that are already there.

Meanwhile, the council's economic development and regeneration champion, Councillor Frank McKenna says the people of Skelmersdale have been "betrayed" by the owners of the Concourse.

Reacting to the news of LCP's decision to mount a further appeal, Cllr. McKenna said: "I am bitterly disappointed and surprised by the decision of LCP to cause a further delay to the much-needed and long overdue regeneration of Skelmersdale town centre.

"The recent High Court ruling very clearly and firmly found against all of the objections raised by the Concourse owners. I am confident that we will win the next round of this unnecessary battle, but it creates more delay and more frustration for the residents of the borough."

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Charity estimates benefits freeze will hit 12,000 children in West Lancs

MORE than 12,000 children in West Lancashire live in families facing a four-year freeze to their benefits, according to research by The Children's Society.

The charity, which runs local projects helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, is warning that from April the freeze will hit almost 500,000 low-income families across the region.

And it says this risks pushing many more children into poverty over the next four years as living costs rise.

Almost two thirds of those affected in the North West – 605,000 children living in 324,000 families – live in working households who receive benefits to top-up low pay.

The Children's Society believes freezing child tax credits, working tax credits and jobseekers' allowance, rather than raising them in line with living costs, could see affected families losing up to 12% from the real value of their benefits and tax credits by 2020.

Nationally, the society estimates that around 7.5million children living in 4 million families across the UK will be hit by the benefits freeze. Of these, 4.9million children in 2.6million families could be affected, despite at least one parent in each family being in work.

Rob Jackson, area director for The Children's Society

The freeze forms part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, which was debated in parliament on Tuesday, February 23.

The society's briefing, 'The Future of Family Incomes: How key tax and welfare changes will affect families to 2020', reveals for the first time the collective impact of a range of welfare, tax and benefit measures announced, but not yet introduced.

While some changes, such as the introduction of a higher minimum wage, might increase household incomes by 2020, others will cancel out any gains by significantly cutting key support for many families.

Other planned changes that threaten to make life harder for struggling families include limiting child tax credits to a family's first two children and scrapping the family element of child tax credit. In addition, universal credit claimants may receive less support than they might have under other benefits.

Young parents and families with disabled children claiming universal credit for the first time are particularly likely to lose out.

Rob Jackson, area director for The Children's Society in the North West, said: "Families on low incomes across the North West are facing a barrage of cuts.

"If ministers are genuinely concerned about child poverty they must reconsider plans to freeze benefits over the next four years.

"Further cuts to support would push more children into poverty and undermine incentives for families to move into work or earn more."

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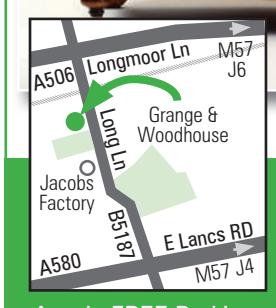

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Council chiefs claim budget will balance books without affecting borough's key services

Report by **Henry James**

RESIDENTS in the 'average' band D properties in West Lancashire will face a 3.39% rise in their Council Tax bills in April.

The borough council has announced that they are to increase their part of the council tax bill by 1.75%. The Champion has already reported that the county council element of the bill will rise by 3.99%, while the Lancashire Police Authority has increased their precept by 1.99%. and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept has gone up by 1.99%.

The council had to meet a shortfall of £838,000 which they say they have managed to do as well as agreeing "important new measures while maintaining service levels for the vast majority of the services it provides."

Councillors have decided against a controversial proposal to charge £30 for green waste collection, which it was said could save £500,000. They proposed instead to make savings by moving towards a seasonal green waste collection service that operates for a reduced number of weeks a year (34.)

This will be consulted in with residents and if it is rejected, money may be used from reserves instead to bridge any remaining budget gap.

The council said they consulted on a series of savings and incomes proposals and "listened" to people's views on these options before agreeing a package of savings next year that will be worth £174,000 and which they say will only have a minor impact on services.

A new management structure, which will save the council £104,000 per year, was also approved when members met to

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran

agree the budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

The council has agreed to use £2.3m from its reserves to create a new Strategic Investment Reserve (SIR). This can be used to finance major new economic regeneration initiatives and support the implementation of the new leisure strategy.

In addition to this, the council has entered into a partnership agreement with other Lancashire authorities to help increase the revenue from business rates. The authority's investment in solar panels on its properties will also bring in £60,000 extra income.

Other key budget decisions include £85,000 towards the second phase of the Chapel Gallery refurbishment (£60,000 of this will come from an Arts Council grant); £15,000 to add new facilities to Richmond Park changing rooms; freezing councillors' allowances; and freezing car parking charges for the fifth year running.

The council has said that improving the health and wellbeing of West Lancashire people is a top priority. To achieve this the council will employ a health strategy manager who will examine how the council can contribute to reducing health inequalities across the borough.

To back this up, a new £100,000 health and wellbeing fund has been created to attract match funding for health initiatives within West Lancashire.

Another health and leisure initiative will see the council providing £3,000 towards the cost of new inflatables for five aqua fun sessions per week during the school summer holidays at both Park Pool, Ormskirk, and Nye Bevan Pool, Skelmersdale with prices reduced from £1.90 to £1.

The council has said their part of the overall council tax bill has risen for the first time in seven years. Their rise equates to an increase of six pence per week on Band D properties.

Councillor Chris Wynn, the portfolio holder for finance, said: "The increase in council tax represents good value for money as the council will use this extra revenue to maintain the services we provide.

"The government is reducing our funding and many costs are rising. But we are maintaining the current front-line services that are so important to local people without making any staff redundant, and these budget proposals will have a minimal impact on residents."

Leader of the council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "This is the first budget that the Labour group has put to council and we successfully passed it. Our budget is for the borough as a whole and not for one part as it has been under previous administrations."

New leisure strategies adopted

NEW leisure and playing pitch strategies, which include an option to develop a new sports centre for Skelmersdale replacing Nye Bevan Pool, have been adopted by West Lancs Council.

The new strategies will guide how the borough council provides leisure services and plays a role providing playing pitches over the next 10 years.

They encompass the council's built sports facilities, arts and ranger services, a community centre, play provision and playing pitches.

Adopted by the council at the meeting on Wednesday, February 24, they set out a proposed strategic direction for leisure and cultural services going forward.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Leisure services in the borough are very important to local people and we are very grateful to everyone who took part in the public consultation we held on these strategies.

"We have considered the views expressed in the consultation very carefully when forming the final strategies and we are also very grateful for the complimentary remarks made by people about our services during the consultation."

The strategies outline key aims and actions including establishing a project team to undertake the procurement of a new partnership arrangement from April 1 2020, when the current arrangement with West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust comes to an end.

This would include options for securing significant capital investment for the council's built sports provision, subject to the finances available.

As well as the option for Nye Bevan Pool others include replacing or refurbishing Ormskirk's Park Pool and refurbishing and enhancing the sports facilities at Burscough Racquets and Fitness Centre, and, possibly, also Banks Leisure Centre

Other key aims/actions include addressing the under-provision of football pitches at youth and junior level and supporting the development of linear parks and other cycle routes.

... but Tories accuse Labour administration of failing residents

WEST Lancs Conservative officials have accused the Labour-led council of failing the residents of the borough by cutting front-line services and failing to invest, while hiking up council tax, creating 'non-jobs' and taking on unnecessary borrowing.

The Tories were critical of the decision to halt the green waste collection for four months a year and plans to impose what they called a 'bins tax', charging residents extra for green waste collections from 2017/18.

A Conservative spokesman said: "They made this decision despite the fact that a public consultation found large numbers of residents opposed this proposal."

The Conservatives also claim parish councils will be £33k or 30% a year worse off following Labour's decision to slash capital grants. They said these grants are used to fund parks, play areas and other community facilities in areas where they are not provided by the borough council.

And they pointed out that Labour rejected Conservative proposals to avoid taking on £2.8m of "unnecessary" borrowing by the "prudent" use of reserves and this means the council will be £0.2m a year worse off.

Councillor David Westley

They also accused the council of wasting £144k by duplicating the work done by the county council with an "unnecessary" health strategy and the creation of a health manager's "non-job."

The Conservatives also had issues with the council's policy on Park Pool. They claim that despite agreeing last December to Tory proposals to allocate £150k for the much-needed refurbishment of the changing facilities at the Ormskirk pool, Labour voted to delay the upgrade to the popular facility for up to four years.

There was also criticism of the cancelling of Phase 2 of resurfacing between Moorgate and Railway Road in Ormskirk.

Conservative group leader, Councillor David Westley, said: "It was the same old Labour Party, spouting political nonsense about being ambitious and looking to 'grow the council', but the only things which have grown is the size of our council tax bills and the level of borrowing.

"Meanwhile, Labour has penalised our villages, delayed much-needed improvements to Park Pool and blocked plans to finish off the Moor Street improvements."

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Spelling it out .... toddlers from the Little Learners nursery celebrate its second 'outstanding' Ofsted rating

Top of the class - again!

Report by **Henry James**

STAFF at the Little Learners Nursery in Skelmersdale are celebrating after being adjudged 'outstanding' across all areas of provision by Ofsted inspectors for the second time running.

The purpose-built nursery, based at West Lancashire College's Skelmersdale campus, boasts new state-of-the-art facilities, including an outdoor play area which has been specially designed by architects giving children the opportunity to play outdoors all day, under cover in a safe environment.

The outstanding rating is given only when there is exceptional provision that greatly exceeds requirements.

Ofsted inspectors commented on the fact that children are "exceptionally" well supported to develop the skills and attitudes to help them be prepared well for school, and that all children are making consistently strong progress towards the early learning goals.

The report further noted that parents and other professionals give high praise for the staff who are "extremely" caring and supportive and do their utmost to meet the needs of children and their families.

And it added that staff know the children "extremely" well and are highly effective in tuning into their interests and curiosity. It was also noted in the report that children thrive as their needs are met "incredibly well."

Nursery adjudged outstanding in all areas by Ofsted inspectors for second time in succession

Sue Lewin, nursery manager, commented: "I am so proud of the Little Learners team, to be awarded Ofsted grade 1 outstanding is a testament to the hard work of the staff and to the fabulous facility we have here at West Lancashire College.

"We are delighted with the outcome and look forward to continuing to make a difference to the lives of children in West Lancashire."

Maria Gilling, principal at West Lancashire College, said: "I am delighted with Ofsted's view of our early years' education provision at West Lancashire College's Little Learners Nursery.

"As research shows, the learning and development children gain during their first three years determine their success in school and into adulthood. I am really proud that our team at Little Learners is making such an excellent contribution to giving local children such a great start in life."

Little Learners nursery offers places for children aged up to five years and has selected free places for two-year-olds upwards. It is open from 8am to 6pm, 50 weeks of the year, offering a variety of sessions.

Young dancer lands dream ballet role

A TALENTED teenager from Skelmersdale has landed a dream role in a professional production of the ballet Giselle.

Silvia Smith (pictured) a pupil at St Bede's Catholic High School in Ormskirk, is a Wili Spirit in the English Youth Ballet show at the Charter Theatre, Preston on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5.

The 16-year-old, who attends the Kirsty Moss School of Theatre and Dance, won the part after auditions attended by more than 200 hopefuls.

She said: "I started dancing when I was five years old. I think I started because the hall where the lessons were held was right next to my house.

"I am looking forward to working with English Youth Ballet so that I can improve my ballet skills and to have the experience of performing with a ballet company."

Super send-off for school's songsters

THE Singing Club at St James' Catholic Primary School, Ashurst in Skelmersdale received a great send-off at their final rehearsal before they took part in the mass school choir at the annual Young Voices event at MEN Arena in Manchester.

More than 5,000 primary school children take part on each of the three nights from all over the north of England.

The St James' Singing Club received two donations of financial support to help pay with transport to and from Manchester on March 1.

Headteacher, Dave Iliff said: "It was lovely to be approached by the Up Holland Tawd Valley Lions and J. Robinson & Sons Ltd.

"Both were keen to help in some way as they know how much the children enjoy singing at this wonderful event.

"As a school, we would like to express our thanks for the support from a Skelmersdale-based business and the local Lions Club who want to give something back to the community."

Pictured with the St James' School Singing Club are John and Nicola Robinson from J. Robinson's Ltd.and Joy Dooley, Thelma Jones and Irene Carson from Up Holland Tawd Valley Lions Club

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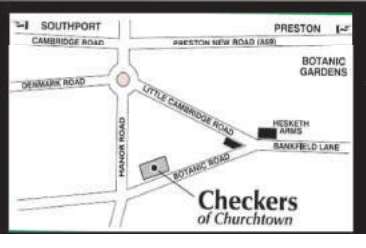

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Double funding boost for youth charity

Alan Lewis from SAY (4th left) pictured with Clive Grunshaw (centre) and other successful applicants for funding

Five-figure sum from crime initiative will go towards activities project

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE Action For Youth has been awarded £22,000 from a fund which has been set up with money that has been seized from criminals in Lancashire.

The county's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw announced 17 successful applicants - including SAY - which will get a share of almost £500,000 that has been recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

SAY will use the funds to support the 'Let's Get Active' project in connection with Wigan Athletic FC, delivering sports activities for young people.

Individual grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 will be used to support a wide range of projects across the county, including sports activities for young people, women's shelters for victims of domestic violence and support for victims of sexual abuse.

Funding will go to groups across Lancashire whose projects met the criteria for the scheme and will help support the commissioner's priorities of defending front-line policing, protecting vulnerable people, tackling crime and re-offending, and supporting victims.

The decision was announced at Burnley FC's Turf Moor stadium, home of one of the successful applicants, Burnley FC in the Community.

Mr Grunshaw said: "I am delighted to have had the chance to meet some of the people who will be putting this money to good use right across Lancashire.

"We thought long and hard about the best way to use this money, which was taken from criminals and we decided to re-invest some of it into the community. We looked for organisations that are helping to keep Lancashire safe and supporting the priorities set out in my police and crime plan.

"I was amazed by the quality of the submissions we received and I'm delighted so many excellent projects will benefit from this money.

"We were overwhelmed by the amount of interest in this scheme and we will be working closely with many of those who were unsuccessful this time to see if we can find other ways to help get their projects off the ground."

Applications costing a total of £3.6m were received. Each application was judged against set criteria with those meeting the required standard being awarded grants ranging from £5,000 to £100,000.

... and trust donation offers a helping hand for Duke of Edinburgh participants

FOLLOWING the success of their application for funding from police commissioner Clive Grunshaw's proceeds of crime initiative, Skelmersdale Action For Youth had more good news to celebrate in the shape of a grant from the Shepherd Street Trust, a Preston-based charity which supports the needs and aspirations of young people.

This will pay for 10 waterproof jackets for young people who are doing their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh awards and help youngsters take part in SAY's crazy carts, turfboarding and canoeing sessions.

It will also assist SAY staff member, Phil Newby, in completing his two-year university course in photography.

SAY leader, Alan Lewis, said: "This funding is good news for SAY and for young people from Skelmersdale and across West Lancashire.

"We would like to say a thank-you to the Shepherd Street Trust for supporting the upcoming activities."

SAY runs activities with multi agencies like Wigan Athletic Community Trust, Lancashire Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue. SAY also works closely with Lancashire voluntary police cadets.

Phil Newby will be taking photos at SAY activities throughout the year.

Phil Newby and Alan Lewis with the cheque and letter from the Shepherd Street Trust

Claire is Labour's choice in Birch Green

LOCAL community activist Claire Cooper (pictured) has been chosen as Labour's candidate for the Birch Green ward in the forthcoming West Lancs Borough Council elections.

Claire volunteers with many local groups, is a governor at Woodlands Primary School and also helps out at Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative.

A founding member of the Digmoor Allotment Society, she previously worked in the NHS at Liverpool Women's Hospital and is also a qualified teacher.

She now supports adults with additional needs, still undertakes supply work in schools and has a keen interest in improving literacy rates.

Claire said: "There is an incredible amount of positive activity going-on in Skelmersdale. A tremendous amount of good work happens in the town and we need to build on this and show that Skelmersdale is a great place to live and work."

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Sarah helps raise profile of Self-Injury Awareness Day

Report by **Henry James**

A BOOKLET co-authored by a Skelmersdale woman has been used to help raise the profile of Self-Injury Awareness Day which took place yesterday (Tuesday, March 1).

Sarah Devlin played a hand in producing the Self-Help for Self-injury information booklet which is used to support those who are self-injuring, as well as providing information for their friends and family.

She was the 'Expert by Experience' on the work which was also produced by Jenny Winnard, a member of staff at the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

It is a source of information on how to care for wounds, as well as the help available to deal with thoughts and feelings to reduce occurrences of self-injury and help improve overall health and wellbeing.

The booklet also received national recognition at the 2015 British Medical Association Patient Information Awards.

Sarah Devlin said: "The idea of the booklet came about when I was receiving treatment from services at the trust and I was working closely with Jenny looking for resources specifically around self-injury.

Sarah Devlin with a copy of the booklet

"However, the more we searched we realised there weren't that many resources which focused solely on self-injury. From this, Jenny and I decided to pull information together and the result was the Self-Help for Self-Injury booklet.

"Putting the booklet together also acted as a form of therapy for me and I could draw on my personal experiences so we knew we had something that could really help people in similar positions.

"I hope people who may be self-injuring find the booklet useful and that it encourages them to stay safe and seek help when they feel ready."

Jenny Winnard, assistant professional lead lurse for the adult mental health network at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust who works in West Lancashire, added: "Working with Sarah was great and we are so proud of the end result.

"Sarah worked extremely hard on the booklet and this is reflected in the end result which provides an invaluable resource for people who are experiencing self-injury.

"The booklet also provides information for friends and family of those who may be self-injuring which we hope will help them start conversations and provide the right support when the individual is ready to access help.

"We hope it can also serve as a tool to help break down barriers so everyone feels comfortable in having conversations about self-injury and reducing the stigma so individuals don't feel alone."

School quizzers in world record attempt

Some of the Lathom High School pupils who took part in the world record attempt

QUIZ whizzes at a local high school have been pitting their wits and putting their knowledge to the test in a world record attempt as part of World Book Day!

A total of 120 students from the four houses at Lathom High School took part in the national Bumper Book Quiz and joined an official Guinness World Record bid for the most people participating in simultaneous literature quizzes at multiple venues.

The students gathered in the arts theatre of the Glenburn Road school for the hour-long attempt in which their grasp of literature proved outstanding.

Lathom winners were Livingstone house and students Callum Rowe, Kyle Rowe, Sophie Heron, Caitlin Sheilds and Caisey-Lee Martin also won prizes for the top scores in their house.

A spokeswoman for the school said: "We were extremely proud of all the participants and hope we have helped to beat the world record! Records and photos were sent to The Guinness Book of World Records to be verified before being accepted. We will find out if the attempt was successful on World Book Day."

In order to set the all-new record, a minimum of 2,679 people must have taken part and each quiz was required to last a minimum of 30 minutes.

The record attempt was linked into the 19th World Book Day, tomorrow (Thursday, March 3).

Kirsten Grant, director of World Book Day, said: "This is the first time that World Book Day has made a Guinness World Record attempt."

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County crime chief launches victim support campaign

Report by **Henry James**

VICTIMS of crime are being encouraged to seek help and support – even if they haven't reported the incident to police - in a new campaign launched by Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

The 'here…' campaign highlights the support offered by Lancashire Victim Services to people who have suffered from a wide range of crimes.

Clive Grunshaw explained: "I set up Lancashire Victim Services to provide support, advice and counselling to people who have been crime victims or have witnessed crime.

"The service allows people to self-refer even if they haven't reported the incident to police as it is really important they get the help and support they need."

The 'here…' campaign features a dedicated website and helpline and is being promoted via a radio advertisement on Rock FM, advertising in bus shelters and through social media.

Mr Grunshaw added: "As part of my pledge to provide support for victims, I want to encourage Lancashire residents to access the help they need. For some people, it may take them a while to seek support.

"Crimes can have a lasting and damaging impact on victims, which is why I am determined to make sure residents are aware of the support that is available to them.

"It doesn't matter what the crime was, or when it took place – Lancashire Victim Services is here with support, when it's needed and when people are ready for it.

"It is essential that victims have a voice and they are listened to. People can either get in touch with Lancashire Victim Services directly or be referred by police but I want to make residents aware they can access the help they need in a way that is convenient for them.

Lancashire's police and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw with a poster for the new campaign

"Support is available in person, online and over the phone, whether you need someone to listen or to provide information and advice to help you cope."

For help and support victims are encouraged to visit the website www.lancashirevictimservices.org or call the freephone number 0300 323 0085.

You can follow Lancashire Victim Services on Twitter at @LancsVS and on Facebook at /Lancashirevictimservices.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Don't look to politicians, it's up to all of us to help combat the energy problem

HOW many of those not wanting wind turbines in West Lancs, are putting up solar panels, solar water stills or mini wind turbines?

If you keep refusing alternative energy you'll get more nuclear power stations, and they're even uglier than wind turbines.

Getting alternative energy sources set up isn't cheap, but if you can afford it then you can help take the strain off the National Grid and maybe make some money yourself.

There's a wide range of solar panels and mini wind turbines now and not all are ugly. Ther're not cheap either but will last around 20 years on average and it will take up to eight years to cover your costs depending on your energy usage.

If you don't want new power stations or wind turbines, then insulate your homes properly and cut your electricity usage. There are different ways to combat the energy problem and some only need minor changes to your lifestyle.

Doing nothing will leave your grandkids a poisoned planet, we already have polluted food, water and air.

What else do you want to pass on? If we don't cut pollution your first gift to a grandchild will be a rebreather.

Don't look to politicians to help, they've already been bought by power and oil corporations.

Ken Walters, Ormskirk

This eyesore turbine should earn its keep

EVERYONE who lives within a 10-mile radius of Skelmersdale will have seen it, the huge wind turbine at Walkers snack factory.

Obviously no-one is going to do anything now to remove it, but may I ask just why it never moved over the entire Christmas period? Surely it should at least serve some useful purpose, because it most certainly is not decorative!

Council and housing association properties are decked with hideous solar panels, which give the tenant some free energy, and feed the National Grid. Why then is this hideous monstrosity not working for its existence and, when not used by Walkers, is it not feeding the national grid?

Otherwise, I am well aware that I am not the only Skelmersdale resident who would applaud its demise. Is it only the fat cats in industry who can obtain planning permission for something like this?

Cecilia Ann Fairhurst, by email

Council worker's one-man clean-up operation merits a big 'Well-Done'

I JUST wanted to praise the council worker who single-handedly cleared Stannanought Road, Skemersdale recently of what appeared to be about a year's worth of litter.

I travel down this road on a daily basis going to and from work and on Monday, February 15 I passed the council worker at the Ashurst end just starting out on his mammoth task as I was going home for my lunch at 1pm.

At 2pm, when I was going back to work, he was halfway down the road, leaving behind him a trail of white bags, obviously full of rubbish.

Then at 6pm when I was travelling home for the day, the other side of the road sported the same said white bags.

A big well-done to you, whoever you are!

I often drive along this road thinking what a shame that people feel it is okay to litter our lovely town. I know council workers get a wage but thank goodness for people who are prepared to do these jobs. I applaud you and I thank you.

Pauline Taylor, Up Holland

PICTURE of the week

**Louise Edwards watches her children ring the bells at Maghull's St Andrew's Church last Saturday where an appeal was launched to raise £10,000 needed to overhaul and refurbish the bells.
Picture by Martyn Snape.**

Four months to replace a lamp-post - and the job's not finished yet!

I WOULD like to congratulate the council on the 'speed' with which they have managed to replace the lamp-post outside my house!

They arrived at the beginning of November and put the new post in position.

On January 15 they then switched off the old light and after a telephone call to them they switched on the new light on January 25.

After a few more weeks they arrived once again to remove the old pole but left the hole in the pavement unfilled.

No doubt they will fill it in and remove their barriers one day, hopefully this year.

If the person in charge of this job worked in the private sector I suspect they would have been dismissed by now for their incompetence.

I do understand that the council say they are busy dealing with other issues but four months and four trips out just to change a lamp-post seams a bit excessive and costly to me.

Of course, they do have to make another trip out to finish the job.

Mrs L. Jones, Rivington Drive, Burscough

Green waste charge would be too much for pensioners

I HAVE just read again that West Lancs Council are thinking about a charge of £30 per year for the collection of green waste.

I wrote to you some time back about what I thought might happen and I will ask the same question again.

How will it be fair if people live in flats or live in West Lancs Council homes?

We average 18 green bin collections per year, that will be close on £2 per collection, far too much. How will the likes of pensioners like me afford that?

I also said that a charge will encourage a lot more fly-tipping and if we took it to the local tip would they then start to charge?

Let's not forget it was West Lancs Council that wanted to keep green waste separate.

David Jones, by email

County cuts are inevitable result of government's misguided freeze

WHILE it is clear that Lancashire County Council had no choice other than to approve the proposed cuts in bus and library services, it is also clear that this has been the inevitable result of a misguided government decision over five years ago to freeze council taxes at 0%, not taking into account the increasing costs of mounting services since then.

We can now see the result of what started out as an election gimmick, the decimation of public services which have taken generations to build up, and an impoverishment of the lives of those who cannot afford what alternatives may be available.

Dr Murray Steele, Ormskirk

Beware of bogus charity collectors

A FEW weeks ago two lads came calling at my home just before 9pm on a weekday night to ask if I would like to make a donation to a cancer charity.

I spoke to my neightbours and found that these lads had only knocked on the doors of around half the residents – and the ones that they had called on, just happened to be nearly all pensioners.

Call me a sceptic, but I don't believe that any real charity would send youngsters out late at night to ask for donations. I am sure that it is a scam and would like to urge others to be on their guard.

I spoke to officers at Lancashire Constabulary and they advised me that if it happens again to call the non-emergency line on 101 and they will send officers out to speak to the individuals.

It is really iffy - people need to be careful.

Concerned, Crossens (details supplied)

Drop us a line...

THE Champion welcomes readers' letters on topics of local or national interest. These should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words and include the sender's name and contact details for verfification purposes, although not necessarily for publication.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the addresses listed at the top of this page.

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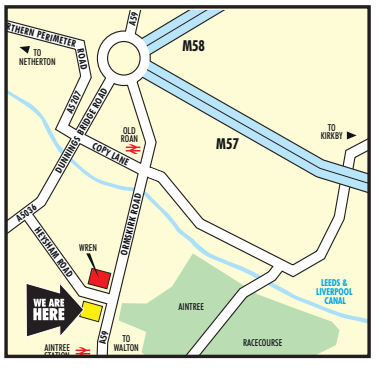

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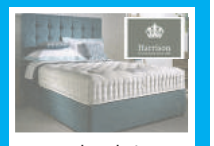

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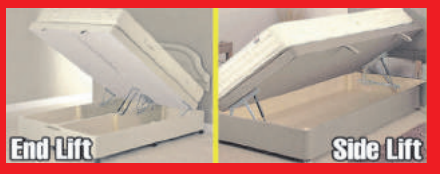

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

Mayor, Councillor Nikki Hennessy is pictured with guests at the Celebrating Women in West Lancashire event, Maureen Fazal, Archdeacon Jennifer McKenzie, Pauline Pilkington, Gail Stanley and Yvonne Gagen.

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy hosted a special free event celebrating women in the borough at Ormskirk School, Wigan Road on Friday (February 26).

Women from all walks of life in the borough were invited to come together to celebrate their diversity of culture, religion and heritage and to share their experiences.

The event featured a number of guest speakers and musical entertainment was provided by Aughton Male Voice Choir and singers, Beau Dermott and Georgia Gagen.

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Borough jobseekers claims on the rise

THE number of people in West Lancashire claiming jobseekers allowance has risen by a total of 379 - or 36%, - since November, according to the latest figures released by Jobcentre Plus.

This increase is largely due to the ending of short-term season contracts following the Christmas and New Year period.

The number of claimants registered at February 2016 was 1,430. Of these 1,015 were aged 25 and over, while the figure for 18 to 24-year-olds was 415, an increase of 45%.

Jobcentre Plus manager, Alan Harrison, explained: "Across Liverpool and West Lancashire combined there has been an increase of 5% in claimants overall.

"The increase in claimants since the last report reflects the fact that we release the figures quarterly. Since the last report, a lot of short-term Christmas contracts have ended and a lot of seasonal temporary contracts came to an end in January.

"We are hoping to hugely increase the number of claimants engaging with modern technology, including social media site Twitter, to drive the number of claimants who are successful in gaining employment."

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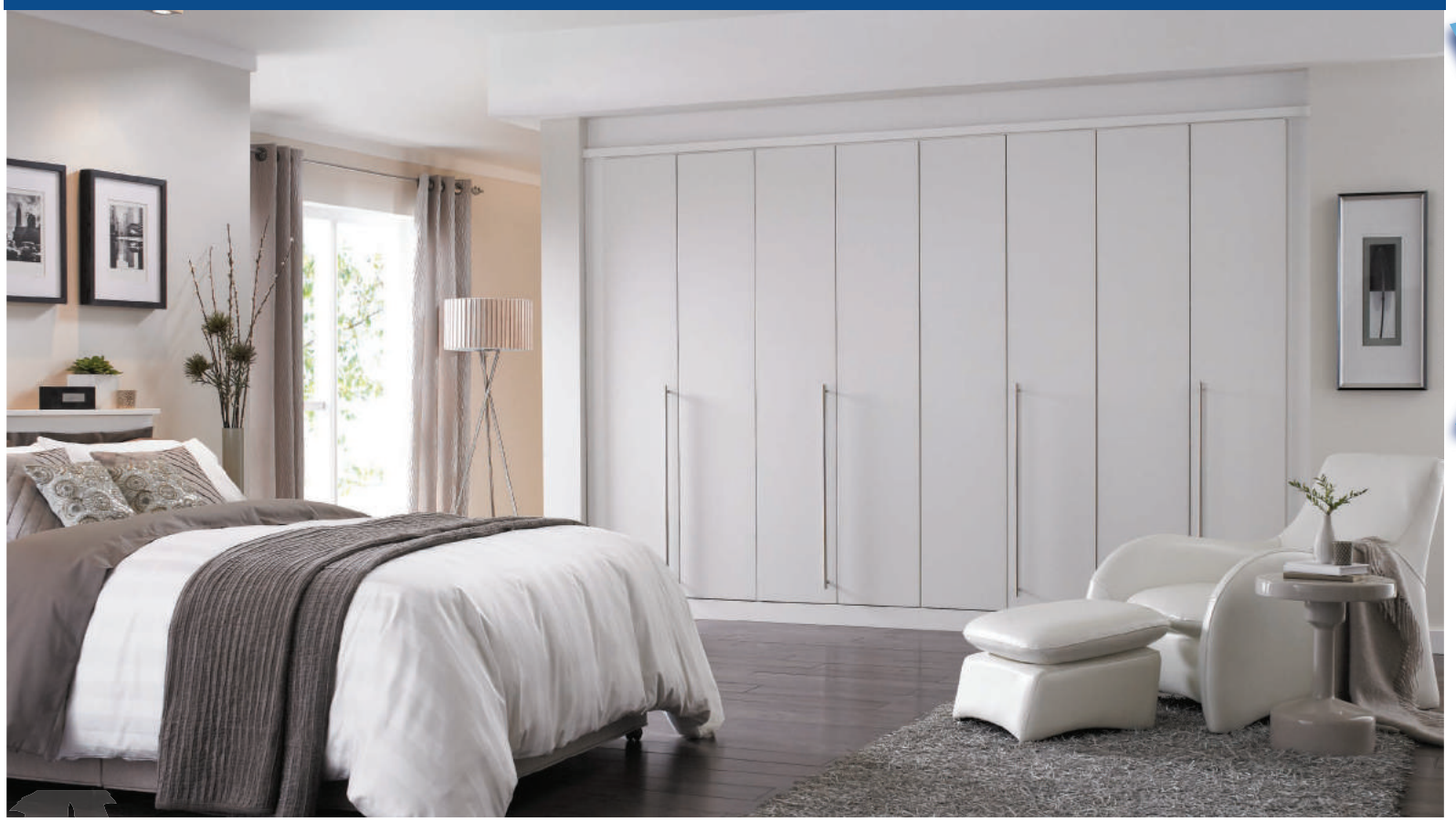

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Special Mother's Day service at parish church

A SPECIAL service to celebrate Mothering Sunday will be held at Ormskirk Parish Church on Sunday, March 6.

This will take the form of a traditional family service celebrating all aspects of motherhood and exploring the theme that the love children get from their mothers parallels God's love.

The service will be aimed at families, featuring puppets and lively songs, while all mothers attending will be presented with a bunch of daffodils.

There will also be time for reflection for those worshippers for whom this day is particularly difficult because of bereavement, separation or an inability to have children.

Meanwhile, over the weekend, church members will also be at the graveyard distributing daffodils to those visiting the resting places of loved ones at this time.

Reverend Stuart Haynes, who will be leading the service, said: "Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions and we will reflect that at our special service.

"We hope that as many as possible will join us as we are reminded of God's love at this time."

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Shadow minister's praise for university's initiatives to support business

MP Bill Esterson (right) during his visit to Edge Hill University with pro vice-chancellor, Mark Allanson

EDGE Hill University welcomed shadow minister for small business, Bill Esterson, to the campus to hear about initiatives supporting small and medium enterprises in the North West.

During his visit, the Sefton Central MP inspected the Ormskirk site's facilities including the arts centre and student hub.

He also heard about the university's extensive work with employers, including The Web Factory, a social enterprise project which operates within the computing department to deliver web-based technology and digital media projects for local businesses.

The MP was impressed with the campus, and said: "Small businesses often need innovative ideas to help them grow and access new markets, so it is encouraging to see universities like Edge Hill making their expertise accessible."

Mark Allanson, Edge Hill's pro vice-chancellor, added: "The university's partnerships with employers such as The Web Factory give our students hand-on experience whilst supporting the growth of regional businesses. This is something we're proud of as an institution and hope to expand on in the future."

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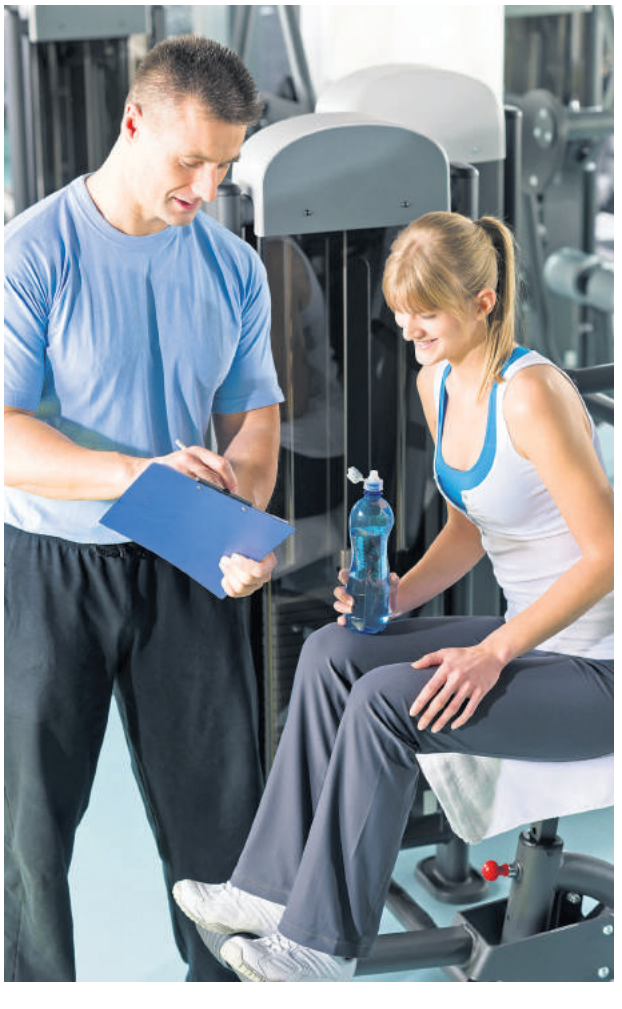
LES MILLS™ Virtual RPM workout classes combine world-leading fitness programmes with pumping sound and motivation from some of the hottest instructors on the planet. Because the classes are virtual, you can work out practically anytime – we're running classes every day of the week. **The new classes are included in our £20.99 gym & spinning membership.**

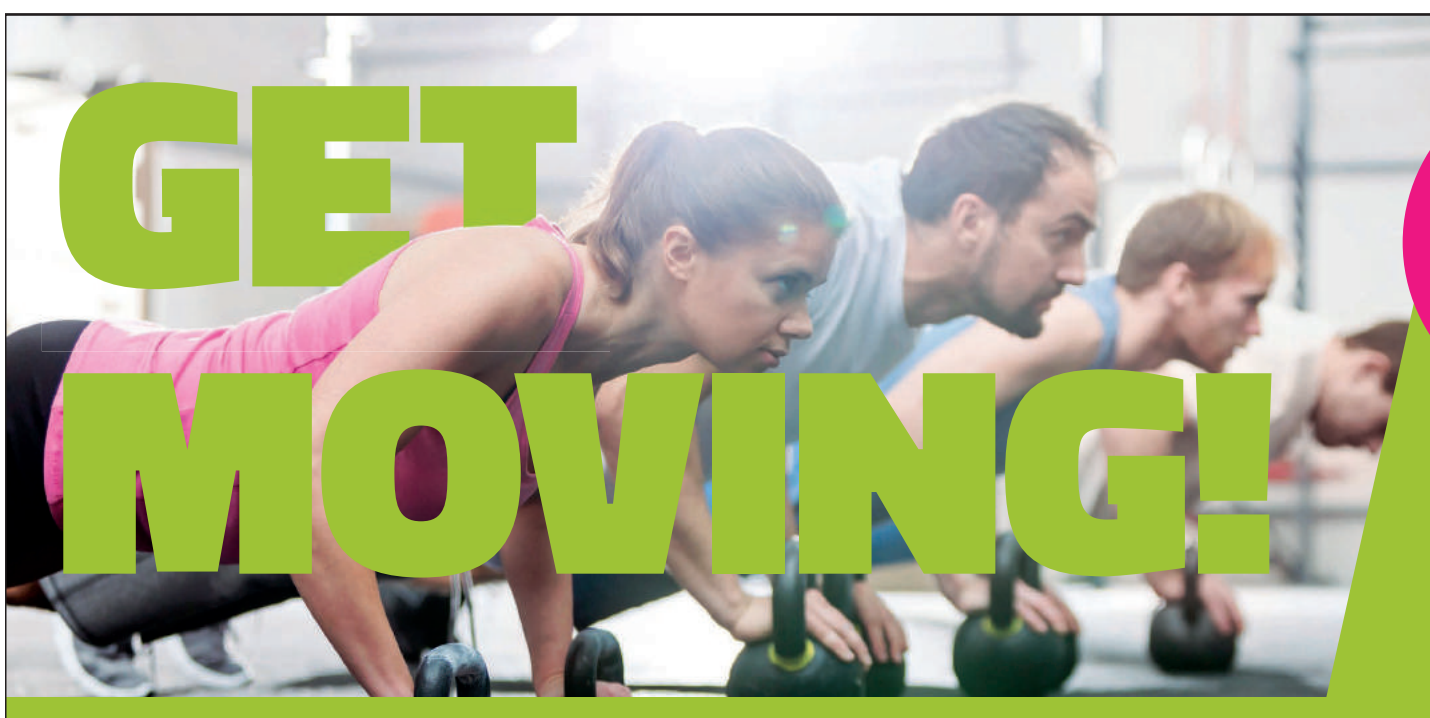
3 Complimentary Personal Training Sessions at all centres*
Sometimes a bit of extra help goes a long way – that's why we're offering three complimentary PT sessions with one of our fully qualified, friendly team. Enjoy three half hour sessions on us to kick start your fitness journey.

Burscough Racquet & Fitness Centre gym refurbishment
What's more West Lancs Leisure Trust has invested £100,000 in state of the art 'Life Fitness' branded fitness equipment at Burscough Racquet & Fitness Centre. The refurbished fitness suite opened in January 2016.

A brand new 3G All Weather Pitch now open with bookings being taken. Why not go online or call in for a chat and one of our friendly team will be happy to show you around or talk you through some of the new exciting changes!

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Join online at: westlancsleisure.com
*Excludes Banks.





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Cycle trail is off limits to scramblers

Former colliery site is for mountain bikers not motorbikers say parish council officials

By **Danielle Thompson**

A cyclist enjoying the Cycle Trails in Bickerstaffe

PARISH council officials are hoping to attract more mountain bikers to use a community facility on a former mining site - while stressing that motorbikes are NOT welcome!

The Cycle Trails in Jubilee Colliery Wood, Bickerstaffe were created on the site of the former National Coal-Board colliery.

Having been closed in the late 1930s the site had become largely disused until a joint project between Bickerstaffe Parish Council and Lancashire County Council transformed the derelict spoil heaps into a picturesque community facility for mountain-bikers and local walkers alike.

Bickerstaffe Parish Council clerk, Jackie Smith, says: "The trails were designed for push-bikes – not motorbikes!

"Originally created as 'something to do' for young people in the area, with their red runs, black runs and footpaths, the trails are proving popular with a cross-section of ages from the local and wider community, and have already achieved a reputation as being on par with other top cycle trails in the Lake District and Wales - all on our doorstep in Bickerstaffe!

"Come rain, hail or shine, a small group of dedicated mountain bikers manage the trails, and as well as keeping fit and perfecting their sport, they also give up their free time clearing litter from the trails, and keeping them in good working order."

For anyone wishing to find out more, there are action shots and videos on Facebook page 'Bickerstaffe Cycle Trails', as well as a map and directions which show the approved access routes. Information is also available on the parish council website at www.bickerstaffeparishcouncil.org.uk.

Jackie added: "If you do visit, please check and use the correct access routes to get to the trails and keep safe when there by checking the colour-coded markers of designated track.

"And whether you are on two feet or two wheels, please remember –no disrespect to scramblers - no motorcycles!"

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Which? Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton & Bootle areas and manager Louis Richards agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Louis a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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ADVERTORIAL

The Hunter Family: Three Qualified Funeral Directors are now in Burscough Village

At MLS Independent Funeral Directors which is owned and managed by The Hunter Family you are assured to receive all the help, care and expertise you need when it comes to arranging a funeral for your loved one.

Margaret Hunter, Lisa Hunter and Sally Hunter are MLS Independent Funeral Directors and operate only from their funeral homes at 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough and 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.

An independent family funeral directors, third generation family members now work alongside the three qualified funeral directors – Margaret, Lisa and Sally – each of which hold a Diploma in Funeral directing issued by the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Lisa and Sally explained: "Few of us like to think about funeral arrangements for those we love so when the unexpected happens, we can often be unprepared and in a state of grief. This is when the services of a funeral director who is professional, highly experienced and above all understanding is needed.
"Arrangements can be made at either of our Funeral Homes in Burscough or Aughton, or we can visit you in the comfort of your own home."

MLS Independent Funeral Directors is a true family concern, and with over 90 years combined experience in the funeral profession, the Hunter family really do know how to care for the needs of every bereaved family. It is this caring approach that has seen the business grow.

Margaret, Lisa and Sally said: "We have chapels of rest in Burscough and Aughton within our new funeral home. We believe that the availability of caring female and male staff has been particularly welcomed by many bereaved families, and many continue to stay in contact long after the funeral."

"We are dedicated, professional Funeral Directors based in Burscough and Aughton, Ormskirk who provide a personal service to you 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We are here to help and advise in any way we can. As a family run funeral business we are committed to traditional values. Our aim is to ensure every funeral is relevant and completely personal.

"We arrange Golden Charter Pre Paid Funeral Plans, and also carry out all aspects of memorial work.

"If at any point you have any questions you would like answering, please call us on 01704 891555 or 01695 424888 or call in for a chat at our premises.
Alternatively we would gladly visit you at home."

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Students get insight into Euro business

BUSINESS, IT, travel and tourism students from West Lancashire College have been getting the lowdown on European business.

They were given a talk by Neal Barefoot, international trade manager at the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce.

The session gave the students valuable insight into working, travelling and trading in Europe.

And they also debated the forthcoming referendum on the UK's membership of the EU which featured a lively question-and-answer session.

Right: West Lancashire College students are shown with Neal Barefoot International Trade manager from The North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

Call to 'go daff' for cancer charity

By **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of the Ormskirk branch of a national cancer charity are urging local residents to get behind their Great Daffodil Appeal throughout this month.

The Great Daffodil Appeal is Marie Curie's biggest fundraising campaign which takes place throughout March.

The charity asks people to make a donation in return for a daffodil pin and all funds raised help Marie Curie nurses provide care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their loved ones, in their own homes.

Sophie Yates, community fundraiser for Marie Curie, said: "We are calling on the people of Ormskirk to get behind the daffodil in March for the 30th annual Great Daffodil Appeal. Help us raise more money than ever before by simply giving a donation and wearing a Marie Curie daffodil pin. Every penny donated helps Marie Curie nurses provide free care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their loved ones."

Meanwhile, the Ormskirk group are also staging another fundraising event on Saturday, March 12 when they are holding a craft fair at Aughton Village Hall in Winifred Lane.

This will run from 10am to 2pm and the cost of admission is a voluntary donation. Local crafters can also secure a table at the fair for the price of a small donation and all members of the public are invited to go along and help to raise much-needed funds for the canncer charity.

New members are always welcome to join the charity's enthusiastic and passionate fundraising group.

If you are interested in raising money for Marie Curie while having fun and making new friends, then please contact the community fundraiser for Marie Curie, Sophie Yates on 01354 855031 or email Sophie.yates@mariecurie.org.uk.

Dressed for the occasion... Sophie Yates, community fundraiser for Marie Curie, promotes the Great Daffodil Appeal

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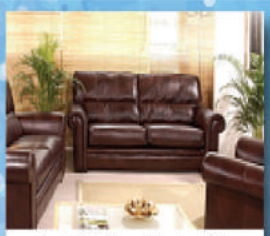
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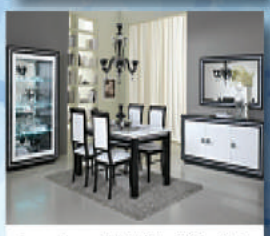
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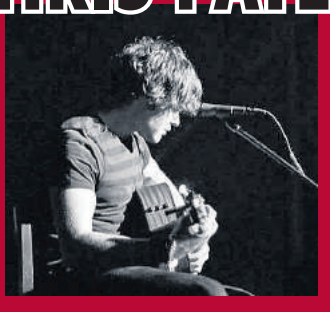

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'Community hero' was nearly three times over drink-drive limit

By our **Court Reporter**

A FORMER 'community hero' and hospice fundraiser told a court of her regret after she was caught behind the wheel of her car nearly three times over the drink-drive limit.

Jennifer Gill, 24, of Sunbury Drive, Ainsdale, and two friends were seen by a police officer leaving the Alpine Bar in Ormskirk then head towards her Peugeot parked up in Moorgate car park in the early hours of the morning on February 6.

Scott Ainge, prosecuting at Ormskirk Magistrates Court, said that she started the car but then stalled it before driving towards the officer who was on foot.

"Due to the officer witnessing each of the females staggering before getting into the car he stopped the vehicle and the vehicle stopped immediately," Mr Ainge said. "He asked if they'd been drinking and her friend answered for her and said 'yes.' The defendant indicated that she'd had a few vodkas.

"She was told that a roadside screening sample was going to be conducted. She said that was not needed and starts to drive off but the officer puts his hand in the open window and takes the keys out of the ignition."

Saying that she subsequently co-operated fully with police, Mr Ainge said that tests showed that she had 98 micrograms of alcohol in 100ml of breath, the legal limit being 35mcg per 100ml.

Though represented by solicitor David Scully, Ms Gill chose to speak from a prepared statement and told magistrates of how she had once been awarded a community hero award for campaigning work. She also told of how she had worked as a community fundraiser for Queenscourt Hospice. She had previously worked voluntarily for them while at Edge Hill University. She said she was "deeply ashamed and truly sorry.

"It was unbelievable stupidity which was completely out of character in a moment of madness," she said. "I did not think about the consequences of my actions. I have never been in trouble before and now my reputation is tarnished and damaged."

Telling the court of how traumatised she was by the experience of spending a night in cells "which will stay with me for the rest of my life", she said that her car had been vandalised in the past and so she was moving it to a friend's house "around the corner" before taking a taxi home.

She said she was shocked to hear the officer's claim that she had intended to drive off and denied it.

Choosing to sentence her to a low-level community order, chair of the magistrates' bench, Peter Dalton, said: "Obviously, we have to take into account the harm that could have been caused from a road traffic accident however serious that may have been. But we also take into account your genuine remorse and that you were previously of exemplary good character."

Chance to have a say on bus cuts

WEST Lancs residents concerned about potential cuts to bus services across the borough will have the opportunity to air their views on the issue at Ormskirk Market tomorrow (Thursday, March 3).

Members of Bus Users UK, a non-profit organisation which works to ensure that operators meet their needs, will be manning a stall on the market from 10am to 3.30pm.

A spokesperson for Bus Users UK said: "This will be an opportunity to tell the people who run your bus service what you think and to discuss concerns over proposed funding cuts in Lancashire."

Tory group meeting on safer Burscough

WEST Lancs Conservative group members met with the party's candidate in the forthcoming Lancashire Police and Crime Commission election to discuss ways to make Burscough a safer place.

Also present at the meeting at Infusions cafe bistro in Orrell Lane, Burscough were local council candidates Thomas Burton (Derby ward) Cllr. Doreen Stephenson (Halsall ward) and Edward McCarthy (Knowsley ward).

Andrew Pratt spent 28 years with Lancashire Police, working his way up to the rank of superintendent before retiring five years ago.

LEFT: West Lancs Conservative Association chairman, Bill Weingart, Lancashire police and crime commissioner candidate, Andrew Pratt, Councillor Doreen Stephenson and council candidates, Edward McCarthy and Thomas Burton

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Chance to win a Grand day out!

Tickets for the National up for grabs - courtesy of Liverpool ONE

Win tickets to this year's Crabbie's Grand National courtesy of Liverpool ONE

The grandest day in the racing calendar is set to take place Saturday April 9– and the Champion has two tickets to give away thanks to shopping and leisure destination Liverpool ONE.

The Crabbie's Grand National Festival runs from April 7 to 9 and one lucky reader will have the chance to win tickets to the main event, The Grand National, which is watched by over 600 million people across the world.

The Grand National will see 40 runners and riders take on the world famous fences in the annual spectacle. With an electric atmosphere, you could be one of the spectators to the greatest show on earth.

Grand Opening Day, Thursday April 7, sets the stage for the Grand National Festival.

Grand National Day is preceded by Ladies' Day, a staple of the fashion calendar. On fabulous Friday the winner of the Style Award will be crowned, held in association with official Style Partners Liverpool ONE.

Being home to brands including Reiss, Ted Baker London and Cadenzza as well the UK's only Beauty Bazaar Harvey Nichols – Liverpool ONE is the perfect place to begin your journey towards style perfection at this year's Ladies' Day.

Liverpool ONE also has an ever growing dining offer, with new faces including Wahaca and The Club House joining established favourites including Côte Bistro and Brown's.

Whether it's a chic pre-races breakfast you're looking for or the perfect continuation to your day at the races, you'll find something to suit everyone.

The three day event attracts the eyes of the world and this is a great opportunity to watch from the side lines.

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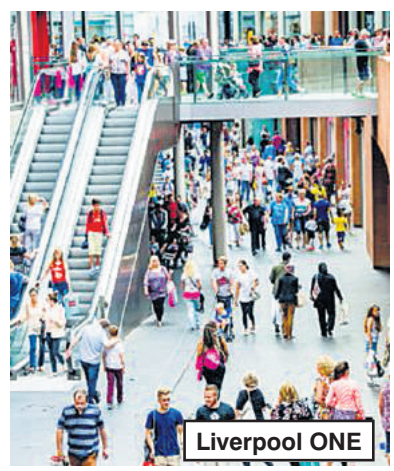

Q. Name the winning horse in last year's Grand National.

Send your entries on a postcard to Grand National Competition, The Champion, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA. Remember to include your name and address and a contact telephone number.

Entries to reach us by March 16, 2016. Usual Champion competition rules apply. Editor's decision final.

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Stranger's greeting made my day

YESTERDAY a complete stranger cheered me up no end.

I was walking with Tina and Cinders quite late when a bloke crossed the road heading in the opposite direction and as he passed said, simply, “good evening” Not much, you might say, to make my day, but it did.

I’m pretty sure I wouldn’t even know him again, but at the time I did manage a cheery “good evening” in return. And that, honestly, made me feel even better!

Not long ago I wrote about the then chairman of Lydiate Parish Council, David Russell advocating just such brief greetings as a general rule. This splendid idea hasn’t caught on generally, but my brief encounter on a cold and cheerless night certainly confirmed David’s opinion that we would all feel a warm glow of sorts if we tried to pass a brief remark with folk we come across casually.

And I also remember that TV programme about training bus drivers in London, where one of the instructors said, among other things designed to improve the relationship between driver and passenger, that a simple ‘hello’ can go a long way.

But I reckon that talking happily to strangers seems too potentially embarrassing for most of us to indulge in.

After the bus driver programme, I resolved always to say “good morning” to the driver as I boarded - because surely this suggestion would work both ways.

But in general I’ve failed miserably in this laudable resolution. I do think about it - but unless the driver looks a really cheery chap or chapess, I chicken out for fear of receiving nothing better than a blank stare in return. As they say, there’s nowt so queer as folk.

And I regret I must lump myself with the silent majority too. I think things used to be different, perhaps, in the now seemingly far-off time before most people had access to a car. Certainly, it seems to me that just about the only public place where you can pass the odd remark to a stranger is at a bus stop. And even that doesn't apply once on board.

In my own time you could talk to children. Now you can’t - unless you want an interview with a police officer. I remember as a nipper my dad did, on occasion, offer another kid sixpence and tell him or her to buy themselves an ice cream. Try that one in the 21st century!

In fact, I suppose, these days, David’s well-meant advice should be amended to 'say good day - as long as the person you are talking to is NOT a child; or a young woman; or, probably a 'hoodie.'

I’m afraid that it’s not only fear of an embarrassing rebuff that really puts you off the idea. It’s also the fear that you might be thought some kind of possibly dangerous oddball into the bargain.

I’m still glad that chap last night made his cheering remark to me though - I’ll really try to do the same unto others - providing they’re the right others!

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Light Railway trust awarded grant for extension project

WEST Lancashire Light Railway Trust has been awarded a £10,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for an exciting project to extend the railway.

Almost 50 years old, the narrow gauge railway located at Hesketh Bank is a charitable trust with more than 150 volunteer members who are looking to develop the project so that it is sustainable into the future.

The former brickworks site on which it is located is now proposed for redevelopment for housing, mixed uses and a new linear park.

The plan is to develop the railway into a strong, quality heritage attraction as part of the proposed River Douglas Linear Park.

The extended railway would carry visitors within the park, linking the visitor centre and arrival point to riverbank footpaths, Becconsall Old Church and the future England Coastal Path, on the way passing through attractive woodland and alongside a lake.

The current award will fund a Foundation Project to pave the way for the development project and enable links to schools and colleges as a valuable resource for learning.

The project would also allow saved historic narrow gauge railway equipment from local industries and from around the world to be used to develop a Narrow Gauge Railway Heritage Centre for the North West, where the many uses of narrow gauge railways can be displayed and interpreted.

This would be done in a way that opens up the world of past industries including mining and quarrying. This could be combined with a learning facility which schools and colleges could use for a variety of work.

It could also potentially serve as a base for some courses and have a role in keeping alive heritage skills which are as important in conserving our history as artefacts themselves.

One of the popular steam locomotives on the West Lancashire Light Railway

Railway chairman, Mike Spall, said: "We are extremely pleased to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund for this preliminary work which represents a vote of confidence in our plans to develop the railway and in our organisation's members.

"The funding is critical in enabling us to build robust foundations for developing the railway while ensuring that the heritage will have a sustainable long-term future as a quality visitor attraction and place for discovery, learning and skills.

"Additionally, it will enable us to work with other stakeholders to ensure that the River Douglas Linear Park is also a success, because the park and the railway will depend on each other if both are to thrive into the future. Together they will provide a strong community asset.

"We will be using some of the funding for specialist consultancy support and legal advice to help us work effectively toward these goals."

trainline

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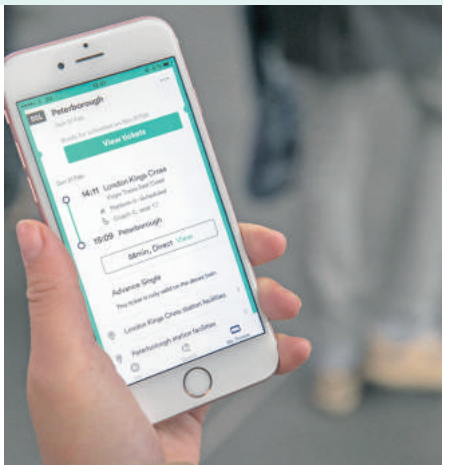
Trainline customers can also purchase mobile tickets on select routes, with both advance and on-the-day rail tickets now available for travellers to purchase and use - all from within the Trainline app. Mobile tickets means no more paper tickets or long queues at the collection point. For a list of mobile ticket enabled routes, please check www.thetrainline.com.



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Launch date for new website focusing on images of area's past

LOCAL history group, Images of Burscough, are holding a special 'heritage day' event to celebrate the launch of their new website on Saturday, March 5.

Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy will open the event, which runs from 10.30am to 4pm, at the Stanley Club, Liverpool Road North, Burscough.

Since 2010, local photography and history enthusiast Michael Dawson has been running two popular pages on social media site Facebook, called Images of Burscough and surrounding areas and HMS Ringtail RNAS Burscough, which have attracted more than 2,000 members.

The new website, also called Images of Burscough and surrounding areas, has been funded by Burscough Parish Council.

More than 480 photographs will be on display at the launch event, as well as memorabilia and film footage and there will be an opportunity to sample traditional Ormskirk gingerbread made to the original 1850 recipe!

Members of the Burscough Heritage Group and the Lathom and Burscough Military Heritage Society will also be in attendance to help visitors to the event who are interested in historical and military research.

Burscough Morris Dancers circa 1954 - one of the images that will be on display on the day

Local historian, Lawrence Critchley, said: "Mike has held several displays of photos locally that have generated a great deal of interest, covering Burscough, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick, Parbold, Rufford, Lathom, Westhead and other surrounding areas.

"This new unique, dedicated website to cover the West Lancs area will make the growing archive of photos, memorabilia, film footage and video interviews with local people, more accessible and interactive to all. The aim and motto of the group is 'keeping the past alive.'

"The website will also provide an online archive that can be used by schools, community groups or individuals seeking to learn more about where they live, its history and what makes the place they know today.

"If you have any old photos, film footage or interesting stories that you'd like to share with the group then please bring them on the day."

For more information contact either Michael Dawson on 01704 894097, Lawrence Critchley on 01695 576978.

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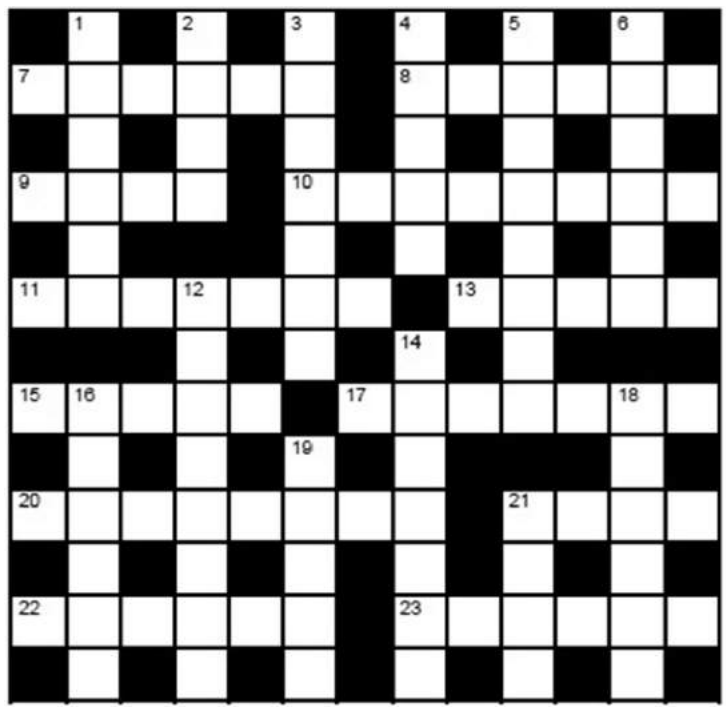

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Petrol. 8 Agency. 9 Kiev. 10 Enhanced. 11 Haunted. 13 Top-up. 15 Cargo. 16 Unscrew. 18 Debonair. 19 Marl. 21 Dinner. 22 Punish.

Down: 1 Yeti. 2 Proving ground. 3 Sleeper. 4 Cache. 5 Reinforcement. 6 Schedule. 12 Academia. 14 Entropy. 17 Bairn. 20 Rust.

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ACROSS

7 Person who lacks courage (6)
8 Something having two parts (6)
9 Pronoun denoting belonging to a female (4)
10 A time to come (8)
11 A whim (7)
13 Small garden ornament in the form of a man with a pointed hat and beard (5)
15 Make amends (5)
17 Raised platform (7)
20 Cocktail containing advocaat and lemonade (8)
21 Light kiss (4)
22 Travel faster or further than (6)
23 Building occupied by male members of a religious order (6)

DOWN

1 In the Roman Catholic Church series of prayers said on nine successive days (6)
2 Exam success (4)
3 Large, imposing building (7)
4 Subside (5)
5 Private computer network (8)
6 For the time being (3,3)
12 Commonest form of athlete's foot (8)
14 Disreputable person (7)
16 Fleshy oral organ used to lick, taste or swallow (6)
18 Straighten (6)
19 Notice of intended marriage read out in church (5)
21 Settled a bill (4)

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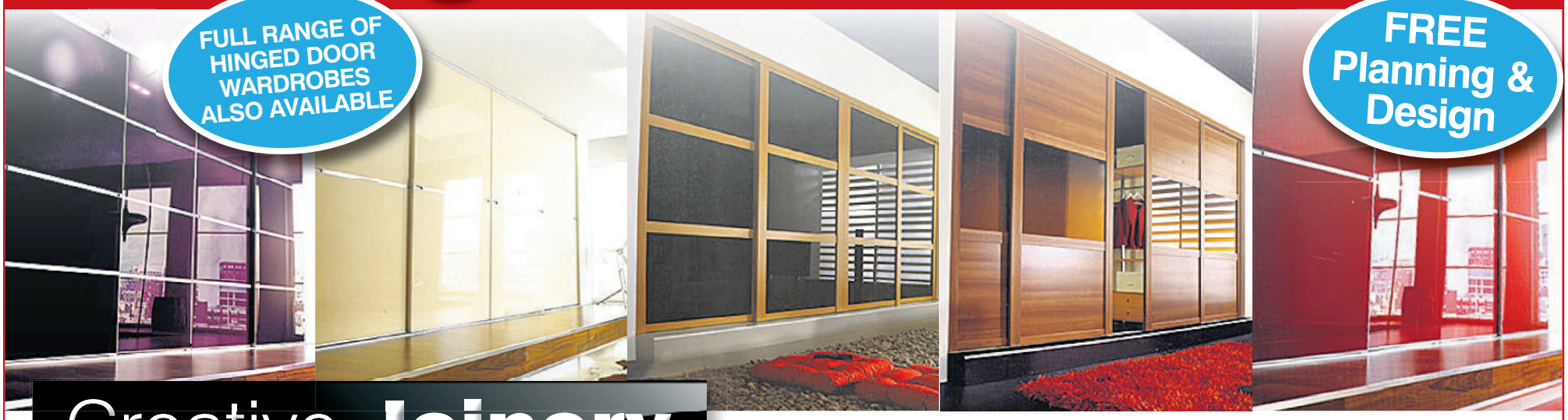

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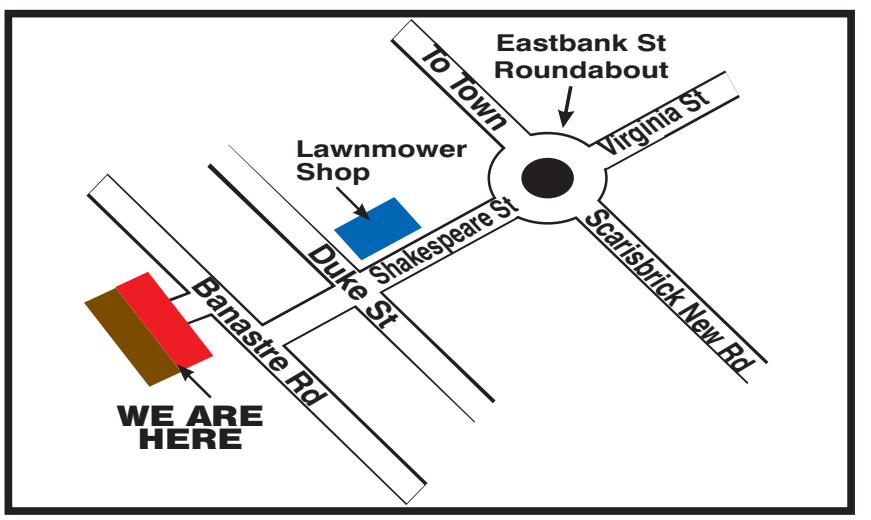

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Edge Hill hailed a 'shining example' of a modern and relevant university

A SHADOW minister has hailed Edge Hill as a "shining example" of a modern and relevant university but claimed that government policies were threatening its future.

Labour's universities and further education spokesman, Gordon Marsden was joined by West Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran for a tour of the Ormskirk campus.

During their visit the pair talked with senior management at the university, as well as engaging with a range of students.

Mr Marsden highlighted government policies such as scrapping maintenance grants and reducing the loan re-payment threshold, which, he said, were a threat to its future.

He said: "As the 2014 national University of the Year award underlined, Edge Hill is a shining example of a university with a great modern campus and a great range of valuable 21st century-relevant academic and vocational courses.

"Edge Hill and its students make a vital contribution to facilities, spending and support of the local economy and surrounding area. But both the university and students are being affected by the policies of the current Tory government.

"I heard their real concerns - worries about increased debt now government is scrapping maintenance grants for those who most need them and will be forced to take out more loans. The Tory Government has changed the rules on repaying loans too.

"This means that when students get jobs, especially in the north where salaries are lower, they will face a tough time having to pay back the money sooner.

"No wonder hundreds of students came to parliament to protest when we opposed the government on those changes recently. Along with the cuts in funding and fall in numbers of adult learners that Edge Hill and other universities have seen since 2010, it's both unfair and short-sighted.

"If Edge Hill is going to carry on achieving excellence in its students who go on to work in the NHS, social care, schools and creative arts, government has to give them - and supportive councils like West Lancashire - a break and stop hanging them out to dry."

Taking a back seat.... Councillor Ian Moran and Gordon Marsden MP are given a tour of Edge Hill by buggy

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Homeowners at Coronation Court on County Road in Ormskirk are developing a wonderful and friendly sense of community with regular events and are keen to welcome new neighbours.

Two brand new apartments have been chosen as the March Apartments of the Month, both offering incentives for reservations taken in March 2016. If you reserve either apartment 34 or 37 before or on Thursday 31st March an additional discount will be offered#

It doesn't matter if you have a property to sell as McCarthy and Stone can help you every step of the way with their Smooth Move package* or Part Exchange options. They will also pay Stamp Duty^ on new reservations taken in March 2016. Visit the new show apartments and homeowners' lounge soon and find out more about how easy a move to Coronation Court could be this year.

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Win tickets to see Lesley Joseph in new production

A NEW production of the musical Annie starring Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan will play at the Liverpool Empire Theatre from March 7 – 12 and The Champion has four pairs of tickets to give away for the show.

Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery and torment at Miss Hannigan's orphanage.

Determined to find her real parents, her luck changes when she is chosen to spend Christmas at the residence of famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. Spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas and hatches a plan to spoil Annie's search…

With its award-winning book and score, this stunning new production includes the unforgettable songs It's A Hard Knock Life, Easy Street, I Don't Need Anything But You and Tomorrow.

Lesley Joseph is best known for playing Dorien Green in the hugely successful sitcom Birds of a Feather alongside Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson.

They recorded over 100 episodes over a period of nine years. Lesley and her co-stars returned to our screens in Birds of a Feather in 2013 with a second series airing earlier this year. Lesley's theatre credits include 'Miss Hannigan' in Annie at the West End's Victoria Palace and also on national tour. Her other touring credits include Calendar Girls and Hot Flush!

Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan with Annie and orphans

Annie will be directed by Nikolai Foster. He was recently named as the new artistic director at Curve in Leicester; and most recent theatre credits include: Calamity Jane, The Witches of Eastwick and the 20th Anniversary production of Jonathan Harvey's Beautiful Thing in the West End.

To be in with a chance of winning tickets to Annie answer the following question. Who plays Miss Hannigan in the forthcoming production of Annie? Answers to henry.james@champnews.com by 12 noon this Friday (March 4).

Alternatively send your answers to Annie Competition, Clare House, Champion Newspapers, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 OQA.

James Willshire

Group welcome return of concert pianist

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold welcomes the return of concert pianist, James Willshire, for a concert on Saturday, March 12 at 7.45 p.m. in the Auditorium at Parbold Village Hall.

Wigan born and raised, James holds a special place in the history of Douglas Music's concerts because, in 1999, James gave his very first performance as a concert pianist in a Douglas Music Concert in Parbold Village Hall.

Shortly after, when only 15-years-old, James was awarded an Educational Scholarship in the 2000 London International Piano Competition, the youngest British pianist to be thus recognised.

Now, 16 years later, James is acknowledged as a 'fabulous technician' with 'torrential virtuosity'.

James Willshire has entertained audiences in five continents with performances of 'freshness and lucidity', with 'clarity and sensitivity of touch' and 'bravura technique'. His recordings of contemporary British solo piano music have received universal acclaim, being reviewed extensively internationally and broadcast on BBC radio 3. His recent CDs of the piano music by Ronald Stevenson received a five-star review in Classical Music and BBC Music magazines.

James will be playing romantic works by Mozart, Claude Debussy including Claire de Lune, a late Beethoven sonata, and the Bach–Busoni Chaconne. He also includes the Latin American music of the Argentinian composer, Alberto Ginastera, in homage to the 100th anniversary of his birth. His music was inspired by the folk melodies of the Gaucho, the horseman of the plains, as a symbol of Argentina and themes from his works have featured in films and in pop and rock versions.

Martin hoping to cook up storm with his show

SATURDAY Kitchen host and celebrity chef James Martin is bringing his cooking, talking, speed extravaganza to Southport Theatre on Monday, March 7 at 7.30pm.

With cooking demonstrations, special guests and an insight into a career spent largely in the TV spotlight, it's a night for those who love to cook, those who love to eat, and anyone in between!

The tour marks 20 years since James first graced our TV screens, winning the hearts of the nation. His show called Plates, Mates and Automobiles will be a fast-paced, interactive and high tech extravaganza. Packed with James' signature cooking demonstrations, full of surprises and not to mention some very special guests, audiences across the country will be thrilled as this multimedia production is brought live to the big stage

James Martin said: "I've been cooking live on TV for 20 years now and I felt it was time to do something I've never done before that was truly special.

"I'm so excited to be heading out on my first ever tour, doing what I do best but on the big stage. I can't wait to get out there and visit so many great parts of the UK, this show is going to be super cool. I'm pulling out my favourite recipes and mixing in plenty of surprises and special guests in what I hope is going to be a feast of a live show. Hope to see you there!"

The show incorporates James' passion for food with his well-documented love of fast cars. In 2012 he interviewed Sir Jackie Stewart for Racing Legends on BBC2 about his life and career.

editorial@champnews.com

James Martin

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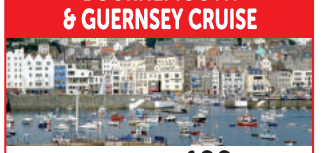
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SAT 2, 23 APR, 7, 21 MAY, 25 JUN, 2, 16, 30 JUL

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22 APR ABBA (FRI) / KYLIE (SAT)
21 OCT JOHNNY CASH (FRI) / DOLLY PARTON (SAT)

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WHITE FRIDGE Tall fridge, very clean & scratch free, 4 shelves & salad draw, 140cm x 59cm. Excellent working order £40.00 ono. Skelmersdale 01695724931

EKTORP COVERS COVERS Moss green covers for IKEA 2 seater sofa and 1 armchair. Excellent condition. Washable at 30. Bargain £40 ono 01704 550898

DRESSING TABLE traditional kidney shape, queen anne legs, glass top, 5 drawers, 3 section mirror, ivory/gold colour £35. Southport 01704 220042. Mobile 07757 774207

EXTENDING TABLE and 4 leather seat dining chairs, 4'8 x 3', beech finish, cost £1600 from Stokers, excellent condition £200. 07765 850104 01704 877420

UPVC PATIO DOORS french windows, a rated, immaculate, 2960w 2120h can cut down smaller width £700. Upright rads 1800h 400w, new £100 07768 976086

DINING ROOM Traditional Oval Extending Dining Room Table Mahogany Finish with 4 Chairs & 2 Carvers, Buyer to Collect £125.00 07795 332604

OFFICE DESK Including Chair, Light Oak Finish, 6Feet Long x 2Feet 8 Inches Wide, 3No Draws Either Side, Buyer to Collect £60 07795 332604

HALL TABLES 2Number Semi Circular Tables with Glass Inserts Hall / Landing / Either Side of Chimney Breast Light Oak Finish £40 07795 332604

GIRLS BED Feather & Black pretty single bedstead in pale pink powder coated iron with sprung slatted base. Excellent condition £95 01704 893505

GIRLS BEDROOM ITEMS Next curtains with pole £15,throw,wall items etc various prices. All as brand new . Room at Grandparents re decorated 07966101288

HOUSE AND HOME

SOFA BED Double sofa bed, out folding mattress, Burgundy & cream striped print,only used once, vgc, Aughton £55 ono 01695 424734

ROTARY DRYER Brabandia 60 Metre. Largest dryer on market. New, still in packaging. From Lewis £169. Bargain @ £100 01515466207

ICE CREAM Make flavourful, organic, healthy and inexpensive ice cream with this used only "once" Cuisinart. Cost £240, selling for £125 01515466207

DISH WASHER Indesit DFG15B, white. Brand new. Slight dent/scratch on side, hence the price. can send pictures. RRP £210 will accept £100 0151 9224477

STEAM CLEANER Morphy Richards 1500w with all accessories. Used twice. In box complete with instructions. Like new. £30 0151 9224477

HOUSE AND HOME

INDIAN CARPET Top Quality Rug, 9" x 6" cream with some pattern on corners, excellent condition, genuine reason selling, £100 0151 5202503

3 TABLES coffee/occasional tables. yew wood. Glass tops, carved edges and legs excellent condition. £50 Call after 6pm. Buyer collects. 07933 740677

VALOUR BAUHAUS Gassier as new display model, very elegant and still in box. With instructions. Bargain at only £150 O.N.O 0151 5236330

BEVELLED HEATER Chrome, towel rail. In excellent condition only six months old. 46cms x 104cms Cost £75 new, selling for £35 ONO 0151 2845333

SONY BRAVIA LCD, TV 43" Screen Full HDMI, Complete with stand, HD cable, Remote, Instructions and in perfect working order £150 0151 9287356

HOUSE AND HOME

SOLID TEAK Cabinet 6" Tall 1.6" Deep 4.2" Wide. Includes drop down cocktail draw. Side glass display section 3 Drawers £49 01704 546833

CONSERVATORY SUITE 2 seater, seater chair. Large footstools, glass topped coffee table. Includes 2 cream throws. £39 01704 546833

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SILVER LEC Upright Freezer, eight drawers comes with instructions. Excellent condition. can be seen working £30 01695 422674

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HOUSE CONTENTS due to move, lots of bric-a-brac, also bed and bedroom furniture, cane conservatory suite, all very cheap 01704 575414

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For more information call Alex on 01772 817 600 or send your CV to enquiries@principalhygiene.co.uk

PA to MD

Part-time (12 hrs/wk), £15/hr
Ormskirk

- Monitoring all incoming & outgoing correspondence
- Managing fleet of vehicles (MOTs, tax, etc.)
- Travel arrangements
- Maintaining filing
- Any other ad-hoc duties as required
- Previous PA experience & discretion essential
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Well organised, adaptable, proactive

Full job description available on request
jc160580@yahoo.co.uk

Red Dragon Restaurant
requires
Part Time
Delivery Driver
Ring Sandra after 5pm
01695 729559

Ormskirk Express Taxis
Require
DRIVERS
Your car or ours
Tel 01695 570000 or 07919 047606

2 x Personal Assistants/Carers

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Roby Mill/ Up Holland area - WN8
Hours negotiable to include weekends and evenings.
All aspects of day to day care required.
Must have a clean driving licence and have access to a car. Usual references required. Non smoker.
Please call 07561 285709

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Asmall Nursery
Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 3PJ

Nursery Welfare Assistant

£8.35 per hour **Ref: 157429**

We are looking for a welfare assistant to join our busy team at Asmall Nursery. The post will require you to supervise a group of children alongside other nursery staff during our lunchtime period. This post will be 11.45-12.45 Monday to Friday, term time only. Duties may include, promoting good table manners, washing up and preparing of afternoon snack.

Nursery Welfare And Out Of School Care Assistant

£8.35 per hour **Ref: 157429**

We are looking for a welfare and out of school assistant to join our busy team at Asmall Nursery. The post will require you to supervise a group of children along side other nursery staff during our lunchtime period and in our after school club. This post will be 11.45-12.45 Monday to Friday, term time only for the welfare duties, Mondays 3.15 - 5.00pm and Fridays 3.15 - 5.45pm in our after school club. Duties may include taking part in activities with children ages 1-11, promoting good table manners, washing up and preparing of snacks.

Closing Dates: 9 March 2016

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

Apply online at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies**

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- Proactive, adaptable, efficient

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2 weeks. Sage knowledge adv. Call Leanne
www.forrest-recruitment.co.uk

Announcements

MOTHERS DAY IN MEMORIAM

GALLAGHER JANE
Happy Mothers Day
6th March 2016
Happy Mothers Day Mum
Still miss you so much!!
Lots of Love
Jamie,Louise & Laycie xxx

GALLAGHER JANE
Happy Mothers Day Mum 2016
The second Mothers Day without you here.
Miss you so much.
Love you so much.
Michael x

GALLAGHER JANE
Happy Mothers Day
6th March 2016
Our Nanna Jane
The most kind and caring Nan ever.
You will always be the brightest star in the sky.
Love and miss you always Stevie,Nile & Darcey Jane xxx

BENYON JEAN
MOTHERS DAY
6th March 2016
our second mothers day without you mum love and miss you every day
love Carole&Simon
big kisses from Grandson's and Great Grandchildren

Place a classified ad
01704 392392

GALLAGHER JANE
Happy Mothers Day
6th March 2016
Its an everlasting sadness that you're no longer here, but every year on mothers day I like to think your near. Your love for me was constant your devotion had no end, you filled my life with sunshine as a mother and a friend. So may you know for that you were " simply the best "
Love and miss you always
Sarah and Neil xxx

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCMAHON THOMAS PATRICK

The family of the late Thomas Patrick McMahon wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement, also for the cards, letter of condolence, floral tributes received and donations to Cancer Research UK. Special thanks to all the staff from Stocks Care Home for their help and support. Thanks to St Mary's Church for a comforting Service and to Jan Farrell and the staff of Co-op Funeralcare in Ormskirk for the arrangements.

CRITCHLEY BERT

Eunice and family would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind thoughts and donations at the sad loss of our one and only Bert. Also Queenscourt At Home and District Nurses for their help and kindness.

BIRTHS

NIGEL HEARN & NATALIE KELLY

Announce the arrival of their Daughter

HARLEY EVELYN HEARN

2nd February 2016

A Sister for Grace

IN MEMORIAM

ROBINSON GEORGE

In loving memory
24th February 2012

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Love and miss you lots, today and every day.
From your wife Edna, daughters and grandaughter
xxx

IN MEMORIAM

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

I wish that I could see you Mum
for just a little while,
I wish that I could hug you and see your lovely smile,
I miss you most when I need a friend,
On you I always could depend,
Kind and thoughtful a Mum so true,
My dearest possession is the memory of you.
Loving daughter San and Alec
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

The hardest thing in life to bear, is to want your Nan and she's not there.

Loving granddaughter Alison X X

Love and miss you loads Gran, Great Granddaughter Aimée X X

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

We can't have the old days back when we were all together, but secret tears and loving thoughts will be with us forever. Love and miss you always Mum

Gary, Angela, Abbie and Chloe
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

Nan we miss you more than words can say, In our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day.

Grandson Phil, Kelly and Great Grandson Daniel
XXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

No words or verse could ever say, the loss we've felt since you went away.

Think about you every day Mam, love and miss you

Son Alan & Carol
XXXX

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

BOLTON JACK (John)

22nd February 2016
Aged 86 years.

Passed away peacefully in Southport Hospital. Devoted Husband of the late Anne, loving Dad to Julie and Karen, respected Father-in-law to Simon and the late Frank, much loved Grandad to Brian, Graham, John, and Kirsty and loving Great-Grandad to Jake. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 3rd March at 10:40am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Heart Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086

Place a classified ad **01704 392392**

BURTON ALAN

22nd February
Suddenly at home

Devoted husband of Joyce, beloved son of Peggy.
Sadly missed by all the family.

PILKINGTON GEOFF

On Thursday
25th February 2016.
Aged 78 years.

Loving Husband to Ann, generous and caring Dad of Stephen and Derrick. Step-father of Stephen, much loved Father-in-law of Jackie and Tina. Step Father in law of Martina, devoted Grandad to James, Lyndsay, Matthew, Charlotte and Demi, step-Grandad to Ethan, Jamie and Darcy. Geoff will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 9th March at 2.00pm. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Cancer Research UK and British Heart Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

WATSON ROBERT

21st February 2016
Aged 92 years

Devoted Husband of the late Mary, much loved Dad of Lisa and the late Ros, loving Grandad to David, Louise, Lorna and Jacob. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 4th March at 1:20pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

TOWNSEND MOREEN

21st February 2016
Aged 86 years

Wife of the late Ronnie, much loved Mum of Lynne and the late Janet, Mother-in-law to Tim, a dear Gran to all her grandchildren. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium (Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP), on Wednesday 2nd March at 10:45am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone 01704 500086.

MOOR JOAN

23rd February 2016
Aged 93 years.

Beloved Wife of late Kenneth, loving Mum to David and Peter, a dearly loved Grandma and Great-grandma. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 3rd March at 1:00pm. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banstre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

MELLISH IAN

On 18th February 2016.
Suddenly aged 49 years.

Much loved Brother of Mark (Decd), Diane and Nicol, cherished Uncle of Mark, Michelle, Aaron, Jason, Andrew and Sam. Ian was much loved by all who cared for him. Funeral service will take place at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 1st March at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired are yet to be decided. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

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PRAYERS

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen.

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted.
Never to be failed.

JL

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QUEENSCOURT *2000* DRAW RESULTS

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Winners of £20 are as follows:

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28537	16380
22989	12400
21567	22390
25674	14316
18244	28761
18581	15311
27134	14130
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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0104/FUL Single storey extension to rear, subsequent to demolition of existing conservatory. First floor rear roof dormer extension at Wood View, Maltkiln Lane, Bispham.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development & Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 2nd March 2016
Director of Development & Regeneration — PDNOT887

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Gardening

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council - Council Tax 2016/2017

Notice is hereby given that on 24th February 2016, the West Lancashire Borough Council in accordance with section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set for the chargeable year beginning 1st April 2016 Council Tax Rates including the Council Tax Rates set by Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

For dwellings within each property band and situated in those parts of the Councils area to which no special item relates as detailed below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
NON-PARISHED AREAS	1,059.57	1,236.15	1,412.75	1,589.34	1,942.53	2,295.71	2,648.91	3,178.68

For dwellings within each property band and situated in those parts of the Council's area to which a special item relates as detailed below :

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
AUGHTON	1070.43	1248.82	1427.23	1605.63	1962.44	2319.24	2676.06	3211.26
BICKERSTAFFE	1079.74	1259.69	1439.65	1619.60	1979.51	2339.42	2699.34	3239.20
BISPHAM	1065.28	1242.82	1420.37	1597.91	1953.00	2308.09	2663.19	3195.82
BURSCOUGH	1083.16	1263.68	1444.21	1624.73	1985.78	2346.83	2707.89	3249.46
DALTON	1073.04	1251.86	1430.71	1609.54	1967.22	2324.89	2682.58	3219.08
DOWNHOLLAND	1079.66	1259.59	1439.54	1619.48	1979.37	2339.25	2699.14	3238.96
GREAT ALTCAR	1069.28	1247.48	1425.70	1603.91	1960.34	2316.76	2673.19	3207.82
HALSALL	1075.96	1255.27	1434.60	1613.92	1972.57	2331.21	2689.88	3227.84
HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL	1086.69	1267.79	1448.91	1630.02	1992.25	2354.47	2716.71	3260.04
HILLDALE	1091.26	1273.13	1455.01	1636.88	2000.63	2364.38	2728.14	3273.76
LATHOM	1069.93	1248.24	1426.56	1604.88	1961.52	2318.16	2674.81	3209.76
LATHOM SOUTH	1079.29	1259.16	1439.04	1618.92	1978.68	2338.44	2698.21	3237.84
NEWBURGH	1075.32	1254.53	1433.75	1612.97	1971.41	2329.84	2688.29	3225.94
NORTH MEOLS	1077.69	1257.29	1436.91	1616.52	1975.75	2334.97	2694.21	3233.04
PARBOLD	1082.32	1262.70	1443.09	1623.47	1984.24	2345.01	2705.79	3246.94
RUFFORD	1085.08	1265.91	1446.76	1627.60	1989.29	2350.97	2712.68	3255.20
SCARISBRICK	1068.76	1246.88	1425.01	1603.13	1959.38	2315.63	2671.89	3206.26
SIMONSWOOD	1074.04	1253.03	1432.04	1611.04	1969.05	2327.05	2685.08	3222.08
TARLETON	1081.19	1261.37	1441.58	1621.77	1982.17	2342.55	2702.96	3243.54
UPHOLLAND	1070.77	1249.22	1427.68	1606.14	1963.06	2319.98	2676.91	3212.28
WRIGHTINGTON	1067.92	1245.89	1423.88	1601.86	1957.83	2313.79	2669.78	3203.72

Kim Webber B.Sc.,M.Sc.,
Chief Executive
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
West Lancashire, L39 2DF
www.westlancs.gov.uk

2nd March 2016

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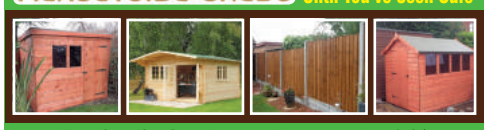

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My near-miss buying second-hand Cougar

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

I NEARLY bought a Ford Cougar by mistake the other day. Having been lured in by the online prospect of a cheap V6 coupe for the price most of you spend on package holidays I ended up in North London's dodgiest-looking secondhand car lot - and ended up walking away.

Sorry for the *Minder*-esque opening but that's genuinely how it happened. If you're not familiar with it the Cougar's a sort of two-door Mondeo with crisper detailing and an aggressive front end, and it's now in the same price doldrums the Capri was 15 years ago. In the end the one I looked at was in the midst of a three-deep crowd of rather ropey-looking cars guarded by two rather angry dogs with a sales office operated from - and I'm not making this up - a garden shed hastily erected in the middle. Oh, and the car itself had a broken radiator grille held in place with some string and made a rather worrying whine when it started up.

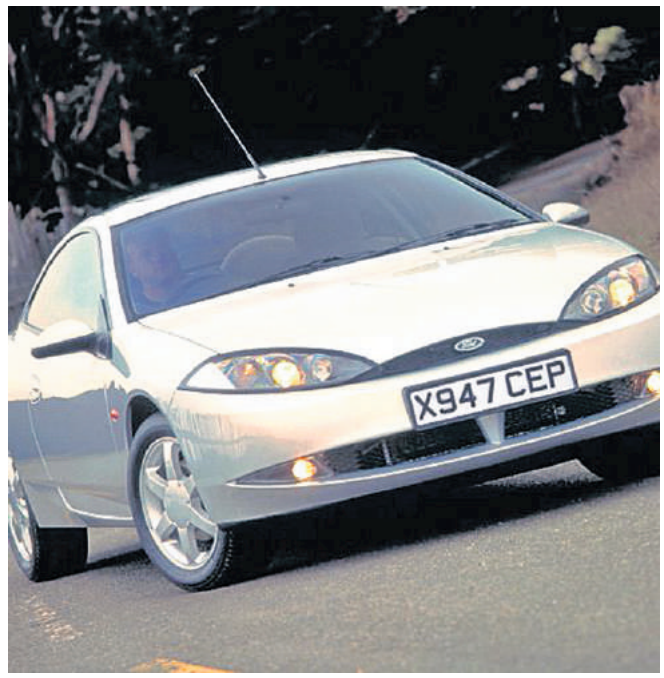
But the biggest disappointment was that walking away meant I couldn't down with some Arthur Daley-esque character and thrash out a deal. My boss had already told me if I'd be sacked from motoring journalism if I couldn't bag this V6 beast for under £500, but in the end I concluded this particular 22ougar looked like one very poorly cat. Which is a shame because I like haggling - but apparently the vast majority of you don't.

Apparently 55% of you would rather not talk turkey when it comes to car prices and find the experience of negotiating a deal uncomfortable. My generation is apparently the worst for it, with 71% of younger buyers preferring not to get involved at all and would much rather pay full whack and get it over and done with. Which is staggering, because haggling is a time honoured way of getting more for your money.

It needn't be unpleasant and it's not about rude or abrasive to whoever's trying to flog you a set of wheels - all it takes is a polite "Can I make you an offer?" and doing your homework beforehand. Far from being intimidating, haggling is a wonderful game of motoring chess to be enjoyed and a skill to be honed. You learn what the car's going to be worth elsewhere and factor it into the negotiations. You use the little niggles and faults you find as bargaining chips. Most importantly you know the power of politely declining and walking away - if the deal isn't right or the seller's rude or dismissive, you stay calm and remember patience is the key to finding the right car.

That's part of the reason why I never go for classified ads which tersely end with 'NO OFFERS' - it almost seems a bit unsporting not to allow both parties to barter a deal and it's important because it helps keep the market on its toes and prices realistic.

If you're thinking of getting another car don't be put off by the idea that haggling is frightening - it really isn't, and the more you do it the better a deal you'll get it. Top tip though; if it involves batting your way past angry dogs and chatting to shifty blokes in garden sheds, it's probably best looking elsewhere.



The Ford Cougar is great value for money - but you have to buy carefully for the best deal

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An off-roader which can do more than 30 miles without emissions

AN AUDI off-roader that can do 34 miles with no emissions at all is going on sale in the UK in May.

The Q7 E-Tron has a 3.0-litre turbodiesel engine for longer journeys - and it has also got an electric motor so that you can charge it up at the mains for shorter trips.

Prices start at £65,000 for the five-seater luxury model.

Audi is aiming the latest version of its off-roader at eco-conscious buyers

Alfa Romeo's hatchback is given stylish edge

Alfa Romeo has chosen not to alter the look of the Giulietta

ALFA ROMEO has given its Giulietta a few styling tweaks to keep it looking fresh.

The five-door hatchback is now available the option of a new 1.6-litre turbodiesel and a smoother twin-plate clutch for the first time, and there are now five trim levels available.

Prices for the updated model, which goes on sale across the UK in April, start at £18,450.

Suzuki's answer to the Ford Focus to be released in June

SUZUKI'S answer to the Ford Focus and Volkswagen Golf will arrive in showrooms across the North West in June.

The Baleno is a five-door family hatchback that'll be available initially with either a 1.0-litre petrol turbo engine or as a hybridwith a 1.2-litre petrol working in tandem with an electric motor.

Go to www.suzuki.co.uk for more information.

Suzuki is unveiling the Baleno at the Geneva Motor Show this week

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09 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2 5spd, 5dr, met black, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, service history..... **£2,995**
07 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1600 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, ABS, alloys, lady owner, air con **£2,695**
55 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, pan roof, 1 lady owner, new shape **£1,995**
56 FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC CLIMATE, red, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, alloys, service history, lady owned.. ..... **£1,695**
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P MERCEDES CLK CONVERTIBLE 230 AUTO, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, A/C, power hood, CD, ABS, alloys, 27,000 miles only, lady owner, Isle of man vehicle **£2,695**
58 MONDEO DIESEL HATCH 2.0 6SPD, met grey, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, high miles, new shape **£2,995**

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05 VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1400cc 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, A/C, ABS, alloys, 1 lady owner, service history **£1,895**
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X MONDEO LX HATCH 2.0 5SPD, PAS, E/W, c/l CD, lots of history. **£695**
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Our Price	£11262.15	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£4737
Vauxhall Scrappage Allowance	£1500	Total Charge for Credit	£558.85
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Models shown for illustration purposes only. *Prices quoted are after Scrappage allowance and deposit allowance. Subject to terms and conditions. Full partners and none partners prices will vary, please call for a quote. Vauxhall Viva models excluded from Scrappage Allowance. *Must be based on a like for like quotation.

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CARS OF THE WEEK

57 BMW MINI COOPER, finished in midnight black, chilli pack, black leather trim, Mini alloys, chrome dash inlay, climate control, 2 keys, BMW service history, multi stack CD system, remote locking, air con

05 NISSAN ALMERA TINO FLAIR 5DR HATCHBACK MPV finished in silver, previously supplied by ourselves, fully serviced, just been MoT'd, 70,000 miles, low insurance only group 5, superb condition

55 VOLSWAGEN GOLF GT TDI DIESEL 5DR, light blue metallic, power steering, service history, 1 family owner, full MoT, Volkswagen alloys

06 FORD FOCUS LX SPORT 3DR HATCHBACK, finished in silver metallic, 2 owners from new, full 12 months MoT, only 59,000 miles from new, 2 keys, part exchange available **£2,695**

56 NISSAN NOTE S finished in cayman blue metallic, previously supplied by ourselves, full MoT, full service history, only group 5 insurance, 2 keys, remote locking **£2595**

05 NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCHBACK finished in techno grey, only 2 owners from new, full Nissan service history, 12 months MoT, remote locking, 2 keys, only group 5 insurance, superb condition, low mileage only 56,000 from new **£1995**

55 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3DR HATCHBACK, finished in blade silver, very low mileage only 44,000 from new, service history, 2 keys, low insurance, cheap road tax, full MoT **£2295**

56 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 1.4 5DR HATCHBACK in purple metallic 1 owner from new, full service history, alloy wheels, air con, full 12 months MoT, CD player, charcoal grey cloth trim **£2595**

61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.0, cheap road tax, very low mileage only 30,000, 1 owner from new, Vauxhall service history, Vauxhall alloys, low insurance, finished in star silver, 2 keys, remote locking . **£4695**

59 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.4 GLX 5DR, finished in sunburst red, full service history 1400cc, alloy wheels, remote locking, air con, CD player **£3395**

58 CITROEN C4 PICASSO DIESEL AUTOMATIC 7 SEATER VTR+ service history, full Mot, 2 keys, remote locking, Citroen alloys, finished quartz metallic, multi stack CD player, remote locking, air con..... **£4495**

57 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 5DR HATCHBACK, finished in Kingfisher blue, only 1 owner from new, travelled only 44,000 miles from new, with service history, full 12 months MoT, power steering, alloy wheels, air con, multi stack CD playe **£2995**

08 CHRYSLER SEBRING SE CRB LIMITED 2.0 DIESEL finished in black, service history 4 door saloon, grey leather trim, alloys, top of range, air con, CD player..... **£2395**

07 RENAULT CLIO, finished in graphite grey metallic, 1400cc, special edition Dynamique model. Only 2 owners, full MoT, remote locking, 2 keys, Renault alloys, service history, 69,000 miles only **£2595**

08 NISSAN NOTE, finished in cayman blue metallic, 1400cc with full Nissan service history. Special edition Acenta model, 2 keys, remote locking, electric windows, alloys, low insurance..... **£3495**

05 NISSAN ALMERA TINO FLAIR 5DR HATCHBACK MPV, finished in silver, previously supplied by ourselves, fully serviced, just been MoTd, 70,000 miles, low insurance only group 5, superb condition.... **£1595**

07 NISSAN MICRA INITIA 5DR HATCHBACK, finished in blade silver, strvice history, previously supplied by ourselves, low tax and insurance, CD player, air con **£2395**

10 BMW 320 4DR SALOON BUSINESS EDITION AUTOMATIC TIPTRONIC in silver blue metallic, fully loaded, full leather, 1 owner, 2000cc petrol engine, full service history, 50,000 miles, Bluetooth sat nav, alloy wheels..... **£11995**

03 CITROEN C3 DESIRE 5DR HATCH, in ice blue metallic, low mileage only 65,000, full MoT, remote locking, 1300cc..... **£1195**

54 CITROEN PICASSO DIESEL, in silver, 2000cc diesel engine, full MoT, power steering, electric windows, service history ..... **ONLY £1395**

52 MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE, 1800CC PETROL ENGINE, Mazda alloys, cream leather interior, full 12 months MoT. Factory fitted alarm, special edition trilogy model only 600 made **£2795**

05 FORD FUSION 2 TDCI 5DR, in black, hatchback diesel, recent belt fitted, only £30 per annum road tax **£2295**

10 NISSAN TIIDA LS 5DR HATCH, in sage metallic, very low mileage only 27,000 from new, 1600 cc petrol engine, 2 keys, remote locking, CD player, air-con, service history..... **£3395**

59 VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HATCH, in silver metallic, and travelled only 30,000 miles from new. 1 owner from new, very low insurance group, superb economy, low road tax **£3795**

09 SUZUKI SWIFT 5DR HATCHBACK, finished electric blue metallic, previously supplied by ourselves, full Suzuki service history, remote locking, full MoT, Suzuki alloy wheels, air con, multi stack CD player, low insurance group **£3595**

57 FORD FOCUS TDCI DIESEL, finished in ballisl blue metallic, Zetec model, full service history, 2 keys, Ford alloys, full 12 month MoT, air conditioning, multi change CD player, drives superb. Superb Economy..... **£3495**

57 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE ESTATE, full service history, factory fitted roof rails, finished in star silver, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, remote locking, Renault alloy wheels, air con..... **£2695**

03 NISSAN MICRA 5DR, in silver, only 52,000 miles from new, very low insurance, low mileage only 52,000 from new, previously supplied by ourselves, service history, power assisted steering, remote locking, 2 keys, part exchange considered..... **£995**

05 VOLSWAGEN GOLF GT TDI DIESEL 5DR, light blue metallic, power steering, service history, 1 family owner, full MoT, Volkswagen alloys..... **£3795**

12 BMW 116 DIESEL, finished in sunburst red, category D, 61,000 miles, BMW service history, BMW alloy wheels, remote locking, business pack, sat nav, electric windows and mirrors, full MoT..... **£9195**

P/X TO CLEAR

54 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 5DR, long MOT **£995**

54 CITROEN PICASSO, 70,000 miles, 12 months MOT..... **£795**

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2007 (57) BMW 3 SERIES 320D M SPORT 5DR, black, 125k, part leather/suede, alloys, climate, FSH **£5,995**

2007 (57) AUDI A4 3.2 FSI QUATTRO S LINE 2DR, blue, 134k, FSH, sat nav, heated leather, electric roof **£5,777**

2005 (55) JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.2 V8 SE 4DR AUTO, black, 74k, heated leather seats, FSH, sat nav, climate..... **£4,995**

2009 (09) LEXUS IS 220D SE 4DR, grey, 111k, alloys, climate control, cruise, CD, FSH, nice car, drives great **£4,995**

2010 (59) HYUNDAI i20 EDITION 1.2 5DR SPORT, black, 67k, leather, alloys, A/C, Bluetooth **£3,995**

2008 (58) ALFA ROMEO GT 1.8 TS CLOVERLEAF 2DR, black, 69k, FSH, A/C, CD, 2 keys, climate, 1 owner... **£3,995**

2006 (56) BMW 1 SERIES 2.0 120D SE 5DR, silver, 138k, part history, 2 owners, A/C, CD, alloys, excellent MPG **£3,995**

2007 (07) FORD FOCUS 2.0 CC-3 2DR CONVERTIBLE, blue, 56K, e/roof, heated seats, climate control, FSH ... **£3,995**

2008 (08) SAAB 9-5 1.9TiD TURBO EDITION 4DR AUTO, black, 79k, FSH, full heated leather, climate **£3,995**

2003 (53) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 270 CDI AVANTGARDE 2DR AUTO, silver, 85k, FSH, cruise & climate.... **£3,495**

2008 (08) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR, blue, 124k, 1 owner, full heated leather, alloys, Sony DAB. **£3,495**

2008 (08) FORD C-MAX 1.8 ZETEC 5DR, black, new shape, 86k, A/C, alloys, CD, cruise control..... **£3,495**

2007 (07) ALFA ROMEO GT 2.0 JTS 2DR, grey, 93k, sat nav, full leather, cruise, climate, part service history **£2,995**

2005 (05) JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D S 4DR, grey, 76k, half leather, FSH, climate control, 2 keys..... **£2,995**

2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 VVT SPORT 2DR, black, 65k, excellent condition, alloys, CD, FSH, 2 keys..... **£2,995**

2008 (58) FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 DUB 3DR, blue, alloys, CD, remote locking, very clean car..... **£2,795**

2010 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI CLUB 5DR, silver, 59k, sat nav, 2 keys, A/C, CD..... **£2,495**

2007 (57) VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.3 CDTI 2DR, red, 78k, only £30 per year road tax, E/W, ABS, CD..... **£2495**

2005 (55) SAAB 9-3 2.0T AERO 2DR, black, 90k, full leather, climate control, parking sensors, E/W.... **£2,495**

2004 (04) SAAB 9-3 1.8t VECTOR 2DR, black, 77,000, cream leather interior, climate control, alloys, CD... **£2,495**

2007 (56) PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi 136 SE 4DR, grey, 119k, FSH, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, drives great **£2,195**

2008 (08) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE 5DR, blue, remote locking, service history, alloys..... **£2,195**

2004 (04) JAGUAR S-TYPE 2.5 V6 SE 4DR AUTO, black, 92k, 12 month MoT, cream leather, climate, great value **£2,195**

2006 (06) CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v SX 5DR AUTO, grey, 54k, alloys, CD, A/C, cruise control..... **£1,995**

2005 (05) SAAB 9-3 1.9 TID LINEAR SPORT 4DR, Diesel, in grey, 85k, superb MPG, A/C, CD, 2 keys **£1,995**

2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 VVT DYNAMIQUE 2DR AUTO, grey, 82k, metal roof convertible **£1,995**

2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi 16v LIFE, 5DR, silver, 126k, A/C, FSH, CD, 6 speed, 2 keys..... **£1,995**

2005 (05) PEUGEOT 206 1.6 ALLURE 2DR, black, 99k, hard top convertible, cream leather, A/C, CD, alloys.... **£1,495**

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08 TRANSIT CONNECT 1.8 TDCi, side door, 89,000 miles..... £2,950+VAT

09 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi, 77,000 miles..... £2,750+VAT

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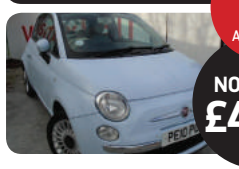

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12 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.0 S EFX, FLAME RED, 6006 MILES £4999
09 REG VAUXHALL VECTRA 5DR HAT 1.9CDTI 150 EXCLUSIV, 1VX - SILVER - STAR SILVER, 19050 MILES £4999
60 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 98, GREY, 52779 MILES £5996
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.2I ENERGY A/C, GLACIER WHITE, 9100 MILES £6499
62 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.4I VVT ACTIVE A/C, TECHNICAL GREY, 28100 MILES £6499
63 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.2I ENERGY A/C, ORANGE, 10000 MILES £6999
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12 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.4I 16V ACTIVE, TECHNICAL GREY, 25799 MILES £7499
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12 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI TURBO, SILVER, 32500 MILES £7996
62 REG KIA SOUL 1, WHITE, 26117 MILES £7996
13 REG VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV, BLACK, 10100 MILES £7996
15 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SRI, GREY, 10838 MILES £8496
62 REG CITROEN DS3 DSTYLE + E-HDI, WHITE, 30546 MILES £8499
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15 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SRI ECOFLEX S/S, GREEN, 3228 MILES £8996
13 REG CITROEN DS3 DSTYLE +, WHITE, 13163 MILES £8996
15 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN, GREY, 15925 MILES £8996
15 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SRI VX-LINE, RED, 12967 MILES £9296
15 REG FORD FIESTA ZETEC, BLUE, 11599 MILES £9696
15 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SRI ECOFLEX S/S, WHITE, 1560 MILES £9896
13 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SRI CDTI S/S, GREY, 24019 MILES £9896
15 REG VAUXHALL CORSA SRI ECOFLEX S/S, GREEN, 2890 MILES £9996
14 REG TOYOTA AURIS SPORT VALVEMATIC, BRONZE, 15000 MILES £10396
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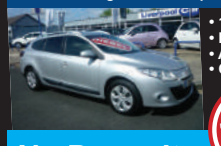

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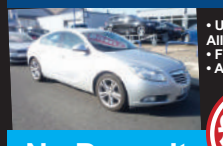

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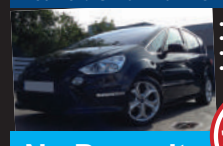

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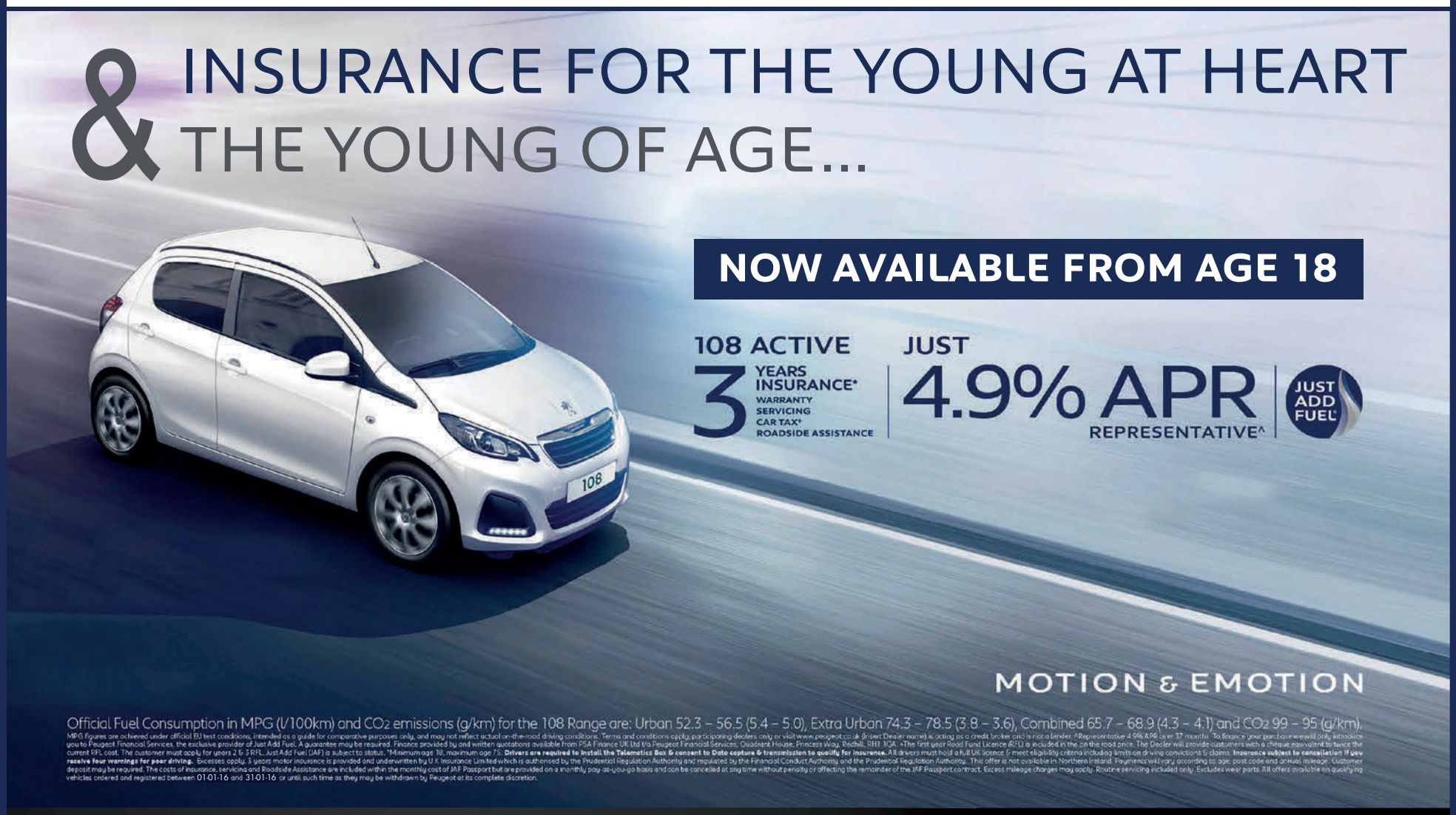
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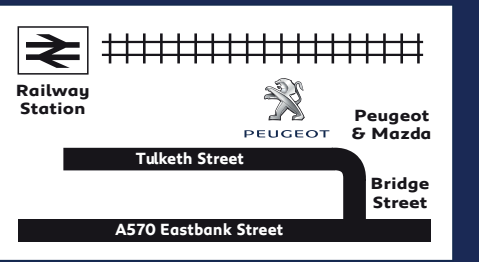

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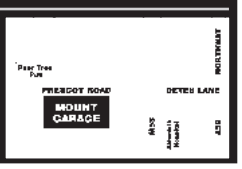

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Two games on road against in-form teams

By **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE face two teams below them in the table in what promises to be a good opportunity to pick up six points.

They were due to host neighbours Marine last night (Tuesday) and then this Saturday they travel to Stamford who are currently placed one place above the relegation zone.

Stamford have hit form over recent weeks, though, and after looking a nailed on bet for relegation they have grasped the nettle and forced themselves out of the bottom four, winning three out of their last four league games. However, Skelmersdale won their last season and the 'Daniels' have struggled for success on their own ground so it is not all negative for the Skem lads.

Skelmersdale continue the theme of playing in-form teams when they travel to Barwell next Tuesday.

Barwell have won ten consecutive games since January 5 and occupy the last promotion play-off spot.

Added to that Skelmersdale have a poor record at Kirkby Road Sports Stadium, losing quite badly on both their previous visits.

It could be said that an optimist would say they have nothing to lose!

Skem and Grantham players tussle for the ball. Pictures by John Driscoll

Visitors upset form book to inflict home defeat on Skem

Skelmersdale United 0
Grantham Town 1

ON the back of last Tuesday's win at Ramsbottom, Skelmersdale's return to Stormy Corner on Saturday failed to live up to expectation as the Blues slipped to a narrow defeat, *writes Simon Driscoll.*

The visitors arrived with just one win in six games and searching for a first away win since November but they started the better of the two sides with a dangerous cross as early as the fourth minute forcing a save from Martin Fearon.

Dylan Burns looked to test Fearon further after a clever run saw him sweep the ball just over the crossbar.

The Grantham attack soon bore fruit though as a long header forward from Ellis Storey found Lee Shaw who deftly chipped over Fearon to put the Gingerbreads 1-0 ahead.

Skelmersdale responded and had a good chance to draw level a few minutes later as a dangerous free kick forced a strong punch from Jake Turner.

Grantham came close to doubling the lead when a Danny Meadows cross saw Ben Saunders head towards goal only to be denied by a superb header off the line from Valter Fernandes on 26 minutes.

From the resulting corner, Fearon was forced to tip a shot over the bar.

Skelmersdale's best chance of the first half came on the half hour as a Fernandes cross forced a clever save from Turner.

A snapshot from Burns and a dangerous cross from the left a few minutes later saw Fearon forced into two vital stops with the second a superb tip over the bar to prevent a certain goal.

The first chance of the second half fell to Danny Murphy who flicked an overhead effort into the arms of Turner.

The visitors had the chance to finally take a two goal lead on 69 minutes as Shaw broke free and advanced towards the defence but a combination of tackles from Fernandes and Kenny Strickland saw him denied the chance to test Fearon in the Skem goal.

Shaun Tuck sent a sliding shot past the post on 72 minutes before turning a Strickland cross over the bar in added time.

This Skem attacker gets some close attention from the Grantham defenders.

Linnets labour to narrow win over basement club

New Mills 1
Burscough 2

BURSCOUGH climbed back into the play-off positions after a narrow win at relegation threatened New Mills.

The Linnets came away with all three points and leapfrogged Ossett Albion into fifth place and also have the added advantage of having two games in hand.

Burscough were clear favourites in last weekend's win due to New Mill's shocking league record of picking up just one point in 28 games.

However, the game was closer than many would have expected and proved to be a feisty encounter with some crunching tackles from both sides.

It started very evenly and there was very little to split the teams in the opening exchanges but just after 20 minutes New Mills took advantage of a goalkeeping error when Daniel Douglas-Pringle nicked the ball off the keeper on the edge of the box and fired into the open net.

New Mills then took control of the half and had a couple of chances to extend the lead before half-time but squandered their chances.

An upset was on the cards as Burscough failed to equilise in the first half, meaning New Mills went into the break with the advantage for the first time this season.

Burscough came out with a determination to turn the game around and scored just two minutes into the second half when Michael Monaghan scored from the edge of the box thanks to a deflection.

Then around 10 minutes later Burscough were awarded a penalty and Lee Williams converted to make it 2-1 to the visitors.

The game properly kicked into life in the last 20 minutes in an end-to-end finish. Burscough looked to have made it 3-1 when they were clean through on goal and the striker squared it across goal only for it to be flagged for offside much to the frustration of the visiting team's management.

New Mills had Burscough defending deep in the final minutes and Danny Browne rattled the crossbar with his header from a corner.

Burscough host fellow promotion contenders Glossop North End on Saturday.

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£49.63

Warburtons Crumpets 89p 6 pack | 15p each • **Instore Bakery Croissant (x4) £1.16** 29p each • **Kingsmill White Medium 75p** 800g | 94p per kg • **McVitie's Milk Chocolate Digestives £1.00** £3.01 per kg • **Bells Honey Nut Cornflakes 99p** 500g | £1.98 per kg • **Dairy Vale Medium Cheddar £1.59** 350g | £4.54 per kg • **Muller Corner Fruit £1.99** 6 pack | 810g | £2.46 per kg • **Whitworths Sugar 39p** 1kg | 39p per kg• **Carrots 45p** 1 kg | 45p per kg • **Dansker Spreadable Butter £1.39** 500g | £2.78 per kg • **Kingsway Blackcurrant Juice No Added Sugar 59p** 3 pack | 98p per litre • **Coca-cola £1.50** 1.75 litres | 86p per litre • **British Medium Barn Eggs 59p** 6 pack | 10p each • **Chef de Pomme Chips Steak Cut 95p** 1.5kg | 63p per kg • **Skipper's Catch Cod Fishfingers £1.19** 10 pack | 12p each • **Braeburn Apples £1.69** 6-7 pack | 28p each • **Yorkshire Tea Bags £2.29** 80s + 50% | £6.11 per kg • **Andrex White Toilet Rolls £1.94** 4 pack | 49p per roll • **Fairy Liquid Original £1.00** 433ml | £2.31 per litre • **Premieur 21 day Aged Beef Rump Steak (x2) £3.69** 227g | £1.63 per 100g • **Mixed peppers 85p** £2.13 per kg • **Butcher's Choice Beef Mince £2.00** 500g | £4.00 per kg • **Butcher's Choice Medium Whole Chicken £3.59** 1.7 kg | £2.11 per kg • **Butcher's Choice Unsmoked Bacon £1.35** 10 pack | £4.50 per kg • **Deli Selection Cooked Ham £1.45** 13 pack | £4.86 per kg • **Butcher's Choice Cumberland Sausages £1.29** 8 pack | £2.84 per kg • **Semi Skimmed Milk 89p** 4 pint | 39p per litre • **Rice Market Basmati Rice £1.35** 1 kg | £1.35 per kg• **Heinz Baked Beans 68p** 415g | £1.64 per kg • **Salad Potatoes £1.19** 1 kg | £1.19 per kg • **Harvest Best Tomatoes Chopped 31p** 400g | 78p per kg • **British Baking Potatoes 95p** 4 pack | £1.36 per kg • **British Brown Onions 65p** 1kg | 65p per kg • **Baby Plum Tomatoes 75p** 200g | 38p per kg • **British Broccoli 45p** each • **Cauliflower 89p** each • **Lettuce Iceberg 43p** each • **Whole Cucumber 42p** each • **Spring Onions 42p** 34p per 100g

Sausage sandwiches for four. £2.04.

Not special offers. Just regular prices.

£1.29 per pack

+

75p per pack

=

£2.04

Butcher's Choice Cumberland Sausages
8 pack | £2.84 per kg

Kingsmill White Medium
800g | 94p per kg

Time to switch to Netto

Breakfast for a week. £1.88.

Not special offers. Just regular prices.

Bell's Honey Nut Cornflakes
500g | £1.98 per kg

Semi-skimmed Milk
4 pints | 39p per litre

Time to switch to Netto

Family roast.
For a fiver.

Not special offers.
Just regular prices.

Butcher's Choice Pork Shoulder Joint
1 kg
£2.89 each

+

Salad Potatoes
1 kg
£1.19 per pack

+

Broccoli
335g | 45p each

+

Carrots
1 kg
45p per pack

=

£4.98

Find us here:

The Hattersley Centre,
L39 2XF.

Opening Times:
Mon to Sat 8am – 9pm
Sun 10am – 4pm
(Exceptions may apply on Bank Holidays)

Andre Ranfort
Store Manager

Andre and the team look forward to seeing you!

Netto
Scandinavian for value